

# Free Critical Thinking Test

Questions Booklet

## Solutions

This practice critical thinking test will assess your ability to make inferences and assumptions and to reason logically with arguments. The test comprises the following **five** sections:

1. Inferences
2. Assumptions
3. Deductions
4. Interpreting Information
5. Arguments

Read the instructions preceding each section and answer the questions. There are a total of **85 questions** in this test and you should aim to correctly answer as many questions as you can within **40 minutes**.

Try to find a time and place where you will not be interrupted during the test. **The test will begin on the next page.**

## Section 1: Inferences

### Instructions:

An inference is a conclusion drawn from observed or supposed facts. For example, if someone presses a light switch but the light does not turn on, they might infer that the filament has burnt out. However inferences may or may not be correct. For example in this case, the bulb could be missing, or a fuse could be blown.

The questions in this section of the test will begin with a statement of facts that must be regarded as true. After each statement you will be presented with possible inferences which might be drawn from facts in the statement. Analyse each inference separately and decide on its degree of truth.

For each inference you will be provided with 5 possible answers: TRUE, PROBABLY TRUE, MORE INFORMATION REQUIRED, PROBABLY FALSE, and FALSE.

Select **TRUE** if you believe the inference is definitely true, i.e. it correctly follows beyond a reasonable doubt.

**PROBABLY TRUE** if, based on the facts at hand, you think the inference is PROBABLY TRUE; that it is more likely to be true than false, but not TRUE beyond a reasonable doubt.

**MORE INFORMATION REQUIRED**, if you decide that there is not enough data to make a decision based on the provided facts (or lack of facts).

**PROBABLY FALSE** if, based on the facts presented, you think the inference is PROBABLY FALSE; i.e. it is more likely to be false than true, but there is not enough evidence to suggest that it is definitely false

**FALSE** if you think the inference is definitely FALSE; i.e. it must be incorrect because it misrepresents the facts provided or contradicts the facts provided in the statement.

This section starts with some example questions and answers.

Despite the economic downturn, Germany's GDP has risen more since 2002 than any other European country. In addition to this, Germany's unemployment rate in 2012 was at a record low. What are the reasons behind this economic success? The Social-Democrat government has implemented several successful reforms since 2003, resulting in the reduction of its budget deficit and liberalizing labour market rules. In addition, their German system of apprenticeships and training has helped to reduce youth unemployment; a common problem throughout Europe.

**Example Statement:**

**Example Inference 1:** Statistics suggest that in 2012 Germany had the lowest unemployment rate in its history.

True  
Probably True  
More Information Required  
Probably False  
False

Correct Answer: True

Explanation: The passage states that Germany's unemployment rate was at a record low in 2012. This suggests that it is the lowest rate recorded for the country. This inference is therefore true.

**Example Inference 2:** Other European countries may be able to reduce their youth unemployment rate by following in Germany's footsteps and adopting a similar scheme of apprenticeships and training.

True  
Probably True  
More Information Required  
Probably False  
False

Correct Answer: Probably True

Explanation: This inference is probably true. The passage states that the adoption of apprenticeships and youth training has helped to reduce the level of youth unemployment in Germany. We can infer that such a scheme **may** help to reduce youth unemployment in the rest of Europe. However, just because the scheme worked in one country does not mean the same scheme will work in every country. Therefore, it is probably true that this scheme could help reduce youth unemployment across Europe, but we cannot be certain.

**Example Inference 3:** The adoption of apprenticeships and training schemes across Germany helped to reduce youth unemployment by an estimated 25%.

True  
Probably True  
More Information Required  
Probably False  
False

Correct Answer: More Information Required.

Explanation: The passage fails to mention by what percentage the adoption of apprenticeships and training reduced unemployment by; it simply states the figure was reduced. Therefore we cannot make this inference without further information.

**Example Inference 4:** Germany's Social-Democrat government have been heavily criticised by the public for their implementation of apprenticeships and youth training, despite the fact that such a scheme has helped to reduce unemployment.

True  
Probably True  
More Information Required  
Probably False  
False

Correct Answer: Probably False

Explanation: This statement is probably false. The passage notes that such schemes have proven to be successful and have reduced the rate of unemployment; therefore they are unlikely to have been heavily criticised. In addition, there is no information provided by the passage to suggest that the schemes have proven unpopular. However, the popularity of the scheme has not been directly mentioned, leaving a margin of uncertainty. For this reason, this inference is probably false, as we cannot say it is false for certain.

**Example Inference 5:** The German Social-Democrat Party has failed to address the issue of youth unemployment in Germany.

True  
Probably True  
More Information Required  
Probably False  
False

Correct Answer: False

Explanation: This inference is false. The information in the passage is based on the success of the German Social-Democrat party at tackling and reducing youth unemployment.

**Section 1 questions now follow.**

Although it is agreed that China is rapidly modernising its army, there is some doubt surrounding the exact amount it is spending. The research institute 'PIPPi', submits that the annual Chinese defence spending has risen from almost \$31 billion in 2000 to over \$120 billion in 2010. This figure is almost double the official figure published by the Chinese government, who fail to include other areas such as research and development in the official figure each year. In 2010, the United States government spent around \$400 billion on military defence. Based on the current level of military growth, statistics suggest that China's defence spending could overtake America's by 2030. In addition to military spending, China's army continues to enjoy the largest number of people within the ranks of its army than any other country.

**Statement One:**

**Inference 1:** The official figures published by the Chinese government in relation to their military spending are thought to be misleading.

- True
- Probably True
- More Information Required
- Probably False
- False

**Inference 2:** It is known that the Chinese government leave areas such as 'research' and 'development' from their official figures, however, this would also suggest that other areas of spending are also omitted from the official figure.

- True
- Probably True
- More Information Required
- Probably False
- False

**Inference 3:** The Chinese government omits several key areas from its official spending figures, in areas such as military spending, agriculture, human rights and law.

- True
- Probably True
- More Information Required
- Probably False

False

**Inference 4:** If there are any anomalies between the published figures on military spending and the actual figure spent, this is merely a clerical error.

True  
Probably True  
More Information Required  
Probably False  
False

**Inference 5:** In 2010 the United States of America spent less on its military defences than the Chinese government.

True  
Probably True  
More Information Required  
Probably False  
False



Turkey is a surprising addition to the list of rapidly developing economies; with a GDP increase of 8.5% in the year 2011 alone. However, such rapid growth leaves worries regarding possible side-effects. For instance, in 2011 Turkey's rate of inflation was well above that of its peers. Secondly, there is increasing concern regarding Turkey's growing dependency on foreign capital. A large portion of the Turkish banking system is part-owned by banks within the Eurozone. As the single currency falters, such a dependency raises questions about the stability of Turkish growth.

**Statement Two:**

**Inference 1:** There are concerns that Turkey's development is at risk of faltering in the years after 2011.

- True
- Probably True
- More Information Required
- Probably False
- False

**Inference 2:** As Turkish banks are part-owned by those in the Eurozone, they may suffer if the European banks face financial difficulty.

- True
- Probably True
- More Information Required
- Probably False
- False

**Inference 3:** The Turkish banks are part-owned by European banks as this provides greater variation to the market and extra finance to the economy.

- True
- Probably True
- More Information Required
- Probably False
- False





**Inference 4:** Turkish banks are part owned by European banks as this provides greater economic links with the Eurozone, helping their ascension into the European Union.

- True
- Probably True
- More Information Required
- Probably False
- False

**Inference 5:** The Turkish economy was surprisingly stagnant in 2011.

- True
- Probably True
- More Information Required
- Probably False
- False

Some people think that prospective employees should include a photograph with their application form. Such practice has traditionally been criticised for allowing more attractive individuals to get ahead in their career over 'plain' colleagues. However, one study demonstrates that this is, in fact, untrue. Ruffle, the creator of this study, attributes his findings to the 'dumb-blonde hypothesis'- that beautiful women are thought to be unintelligent. Ruffle submits that companies would be better advised adopting the selection model employed by the Belgian public sector, where CVs are anonymous and candidate names, gender and photographs are not allowed to be included on CVs. Such a model allows the candidate to be selected on factors relevant to the role applied for.

**Statement Three:**

**Inference 1:** The 'dumb-blonde hypothesis' says that more attractive women are less capable of being intelligent.

- True
- Probably True
- More Information Required
- Probably False
- False

**Inference 2:** The model of selecting future employees adopted by the Belgian public sector aims to reduce discrimination based on appearance and gender.

- True
- Probably True
- More Information Required
- Probably False
- False

**Inference 3:** The method of selecting future employees adopted by the Belgian public sector has helped to eliminate discrimination in the Belgian public sector.

- True
- Probably True
- More Information Required
- Probably False
- False

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**Inference 4:** The method of selecting future employees adopted by the Belgian public sector has had the effect of increasing discrimination based on appearance within the Belgian public sector.

- True
- Probably True
- More Information Required
- Probably False
- False

## Section 2: Assumptions

### Instructions:

An assumption is something which is presupposed or taken for granted. When a person says “I will see you tomorrow”, it is taken for granted that they will be around tomorrow, and that they will not have last-minute plans which prevent them from seeing you tomorrow.

In this section you will be provided with a number of statements. Each statement will be followed by a series of proposed assumptions. You must decide which assumptions are logically justified based on the evidence in the statement. If you think that the assumption is taken for granted in the statement, and is therefore logically justified, select “**Assumption Made**”. If you think that the assumption is not taken for granted in the statement, and is not therefore logically justified, select “**Assumption Not Made**”. Remember to judge each question individually and base your responses on the statements provided.

This section starts with some example questions and answers.

Public sector organisations undergo organisational changes more often than private sector organisations. This change may cause a drop in employee satisfaction rates and an increase in staff turnover in public sector organisations.

**Example Statement:**

**Example Assumption One:** Private sector organisations undergo organisational change.

Assumption Made  
Assumption Not Made

Correct answer: ASSUMPTION MADE, because the statement assumes that both private and public organisations undergo organisational change and compares the two types of organisation.

**Example Assumption Two:** The mood of public sector staff is affected by organisational change.

Assumption Made  
Assumption Not Made

Correct answer: ASSUMPTION MADE, because the statement assumes that organisational change may cause a drop in employee satisfaction. The statement is assuming that organisational changes affect the mood (or attitude) of staff.

**Example Assumption Three:** Private sector organisations are more efficient than public sector organisations.

Assumption Made  
Assumption Not Made

Correct answer: ASSUMPTION NOT MADE, because the statement does not make reference to the efficiencies of either public or private sector organisations. This assumption is not implicit in the statement; i.e. it is not necessary to make this assumption in order to arrive at the statement.

**Section 2 questions now follow.**

Monarchic nations, i.e. those with royal families, differ from republican nations in several ways. An example of this difference is that citizens of monarchic nations pay more tax than citizens of republican nations.

**Statement One:**

**Assumption 1:** The governments of monarchic nations are responsible for setting tax rates on their citizens.

Assumption Made  
Assumption Not Made

**Assumption 2:** Republican nations do not have a royal family.

Assumption Made  
Assumption Not Made

**Assumption 3:** The only types of nation are monarchic and republican.

Assumption Made  
Assumption Not Made

**Assumption 4:** A monarchic nation cannot be a republican nation.

Assumption Made  
Assumption Not Made

In 2008, the President of the USA promised to prevent the country entering economic depression, but he failed because at the beginning of 2012, over 12 million USA citizens were unemployed.

**Statement Two:**

**Assumption 1:** Unemployment is an indicator of economic depression

Assumption Made  
Assumption Not Made

**Assumption 2:** The number of USA citizens out of work ought to be less than 12 million.

Assumption Made  
Assumption Not Made

**Assumption 3:** Presidents should stick to their promises.

Assumption Made  
Assumption Not Made



Chilean students were right in 2012 to stage protests demanding that university education in Chile should be made free.

**Statement Three:**

**Assumption 1:** Some Universities outside of Chile are free.

Assumption Made  
Assumption Not Made

**Assumption 2:** Staging protests will influence the costs of Chilean university education.

Assumption Made  
Assumption Not Made

**Assumption 3:** Chilean students cannot afford to pay fees for university education.

Assumption Made  
Assumption Not Made

**Assumption 4:** Chilean students want to attend university.

Assumption Made  
Assumption Not Made

Charities don't have to charge VAT to customers, which means charity bookshops can charge lower prices than those charged by second-hand bookshops which are not registered as a charity.

**Statement Four:**

**Assumption 1:** Charities pay less tax than non-charities.

Assumption Made  
Assumption Not Made

**Assumption 2:** Customers prefer to pay lower prices.

Assumption Made  
Assumption Not Made

**Assumption 3:** VAT increases the price customers pay for things.

Assumption Made  
Assumption Not Made

## Section 3: Deductions

### Instructions:

In this section, a statement will be provided followed by a series of suggested conclusions. Here, you must take the statement to be true. After reading each conclusion underneath the statement, you must decide whether you think it follows from the statement provided. If you agree that the conclusion follows the statement, chose **CONCLUSION FOLLOWS**. However if you do not consider the conclusion to follow, then chose **CONCLUSION DOES NOT FOLLOW**. You must select your answer based only on the information presented; not using general knowledge. Similarly you are advised not to let your own opinions or prejudices influence your decisions; stick to the statements and base your judgements solely on the facts presented.

This section starts with some example questions and answers.

A poll held in May 2012 noted that the British government were trusted by only two thirds of the British population. There were three reasons for this. Firstly, the government were blamed for a return to recession. Secondly, the Prime Minister was seen as out of touch and finally, all governments face midterm slumps in popularity. Therefore:

**Example Statement One:**

**Example Conclusion One:** All Prime Ministers are out of touch.

Conclusion Follows  
Conclusion Does Not Follow

Correct Answer: Conclusion does not follow.

Explanation: We cannot conclude that all Prime Ministers are out of touch on the basis that one was or might have been. The correct answer is therefore the conclusion does not follow.

**Example Conclusion Two:** All Prime Ministers who are seen as out of touch will drop in popularity.

Conclusion Follows  
Conclusion Does Not Follow

Correct Answer: Conclusion does not follow.

Explanation: We cannot conclude that all Prime Ministers who are out of touch will drop in popularity. We have heard about one case of a Prime Minister losing popularity by being seen as, amongst other things, out of touch. We cannot necessarily extend this link to all Prime Ministers. The correct answer is therefore conclusion does not follow.

**Example Conclusion Three:** Governments cannot avoid the prospect of a mid-term slump in popularity.

Conclusion Follows  
Conclusion Does Not Follow

Correct Answer: Conclusion follows.

Explanation: The passage states that all governments face a mid-term slump in popularity. Based on the statement, we can conclude that this mid-term slump is unavoidable, and therefore the conclusion follows.

**Section 3 questions now follow.**

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In an attempt to cut expenses, an organisation disbanded its IT department and outsourced its IT function to a Business Process outsourcing company. In doing so the company has managed to save 20% on its IT function expenditure.

**Statement One:**

**Conclusion One:** Outsourcing functions to Business process outsourcing companies will cut expenses

Conclusion Follows  
Conclusion Does Not Follow

**Conclusion Two:** The aim of this company's outsourcing was to make the organisation more profitable.

Conclusion Follows  
Conclusion Does Not Follow

**Conclusion Three:** The outsourced IT function has saved the organisation 1/5th on their IT function expenditure compared to the in-house IT function.

Conclusion Follows  
Conclusion Does Not Follow

Sarah owns a new company. New companies are more likely to fail than well-established companies. Therefore:

**Statement Two:**

**Conclusion One:** Sarah's company will fail.

Conclusion Follows  
Conclusion Does Not Follow

**Conclusion Two:** Sarah's company is more likely to fail than a well-established company.

Conclusion Follows  
Conclusion Does Not Follow

**Conclusion Three:** Well-established companies are more likely to succeed than new companies.

Conclusion Follows  
Conclusion Does Not Follow

Statistics have shown that companies selling baked goods, such as cakes and pastries, are more likely to be successful if they are advertised as French or Belgian. Therefore:

**Statement Three:**

**Conclusion One:** French and Belgian products are more expensive.

Conclusion Follows  
Conclusion Does Not Follow

**Conclusion Two:** French and Belgian baked goods must taste better.

Conclusion Follows  
Conclusion Does Not Follow

**Conclusion Three:** It is a sound business model to advertise baked goods as “French” or “Belgian” as this is more likely to result in successful sales.

Conclusion Follows  
Conclusion Does Not Follow



**Statement Four:**

May 2012 had the highest level of rainfall on record for the preceding fifty years.  
Predictions of rainfall are rarely accurate. Therefore:

**Conclusion One:** It rained more than expected in May 2012.

Conclusion Follows  
Conclusion Does Not Follow

**Conclusion Two:** The rainfall in May 2012 was greater than in May 2011.

Conclusion Follows  
Conclusion Does Not Follow

**Conclusion Three:** May is usually dry.

Conclusion Follows  
Conclusion Does Not Follow

Facebook was launched on the American stock market in May 2012. However, statistics suggest that several previously high-performing companies, such as Pandora, Groupon and LinkedIn fell in value after they were launched on the American stock market. Therefore:

**Statement Five:**

**Conclusion One:** It is possible that Facebook will also drop in value after May 2012.

Conclusion Follows  
Conclusion Does Not Follow

**Conclusion Two:** Social networking sites perform badly once they become publicly listed on the stock market.

Conclusion Follows  
Conclusion Does Not Follow

**Conclusion Three:** All companies decrease in value when first launched on the American stock market.

Conclusion Follows  
Conclusion Does Not Follow

There are currently three problems facing the financial sector. Firstly, bankers are no longer seen as reliable or trustworthy. Secondly, executives of financial institutions are seen by the general public as being overpaid. Finally, it is difficult to regulate the financial sector. Therefore:

**Statement Six:**

**Conclusion One:** Banks have never been trusted by the general public.

Conclusion Follows  
Conclusion Does Not Follow

**Conclusion Two:** Reliability is no longer an issue when considering the failings of the financial sector.

Conclusion Follows  
Conclusion Does Not Follow

**Conclusion Three:** Overpaying financial executives may contribute to problems facing the financial sector.

Conclusion Follows  
Conclusion Does Not Follow

Coley is a company that produces scented candles, using only natural products. Coley is against testing on animals and does not use pesticides in any of its products. Therefore:

**Statement Seven:**

**Conclusion One:** The scent from Coley's candles is made from fruits and berries.

Conclusion Follows  
Conclusion Does Not Follow

**Conclusion Two:** Coley's products are unlikely to contain man made setting agents.

Conclusion Follows  
Conclusion Does Not Follow

**Conclusion Three:** Coley's products are likely to be more expensive.

Conclusion Follows  
Conclusion Does Not Follow

## Section 4: Interpreting Information

### Instructions:

The following questions will consist of a passage of information, followed by a series of conclusions. You are instructed to assume all information in the passage is true. The task is to judge whether or not each of the proposed conclusions logically flows beyond a reasonable doubt from the information given in the paragraph.

If you think that a conclusion follows beyond a reasonable doubt (but perhaps not absolutely), select **“Conclusion Follows”**. If you think the conclusion does not follow beyond a reasonable doubt based on the facts given, select **“Conclusion Does Not Follow”**. Do not use general knowledge when answering, only use the information provided in the passage. Remember to judge each conclusion individually.

This section starts with some example questions and answers.

Elaine is an events planner for a company called Top London Events. She specializes in themed parties and caters to London's young professionals. Elaine is also the most popular member of staff at Top London Events. Therefore:

**Example Statement:**

**Example Conclusion One:** Elaine is the most professional party planner.

Conclusion Follows  
Conclusion Does Not Follow

Answer: Conclusion Does Not Follow.

Explanation: Based on the information provided in the statement, we cannot know whether or not Elaine is 'professional'. This topic is not addressed by the statement, just that she is "sought after". The correct answer is therefore, conclusion does not follow.

**Example Conclusion Two:** People at Top London Events are more likely to want to work with Elaine than other employees.

Conclusion Follows  
Conclusion Does Not Follow

Answer: Conclusion Follows.

Explanation: The statement notes that Elaine is the most popular member of staff. So if she is the most popular it is more likely than not that people will want to work with her more than any other member of staff. The correct answer is therefore, conclusion follows.

**Example Conclusion Three:** Elaine is the best at her job.

Conclusion Follows  
Conclusion Does Not Follow

Answer: Conclusion Does Not Follow.

Explanation: The statement notes that Elaine is the most sought after party planner, however the passage does not mention if she is the best at her job. The conclusion therefor does not follow because we do not have the information required to come to this conclusion.

**Section 4 questions now follow.**

The Tapoloa Club is a Hawaiian-themed night club in central London. Its most popular drink is the Volcano, which emits sparks and flames. The Tapoloa Club also offers a range of cocktails in perverse containers such as pineapples and coconuts, such as the 'coconut express' and the 'pineapple pick-up' respectively. Therefore:

**Statement One:**

**Conclusion One:** The 'Coconut Express' is the second most popular drink sold by the Tapoloa Club.

Conclusion Follows  
Conclusion Does Not Follow

**Conclusion Two:** All themed clubs in London sell unusual drinks.

Conclusion Follows  
Conclusion Does Not Follow

**Conclusion Three:** The "Coconut Express" is contained in a pineapple, and the "Pineapple Pick-Up" is contained in a coconut.

Conclusion Follows  
Conclusion Does Not Follow

The British National Library has the largest collection of publicly-owned books in the United Kingdom. Therefore:

**Statement Two:**

**Conclusion One:** There might be a larger collection of books in the United Kingdom.

Conclusion Follows  
Conclusion Does Not Follow

**Conclusion Two:** There might be a larger collection of publicly-owned books in the United Kingdom.

Conclusion Follows  
Conclusion Does Not Follow

**Conclusion Three:** The British National Library is in the United Kingdom

Conclusion Follows  
Conclusion Does Not Follow



People with a master's degree in business administration (MBA) earn an income on average 70% higher than people with just an undergraduate degree. MBA students from top business schools earn an income on average 50% higher than the average income of people with MBAs.

**Statement Three:**

**Conclusion One:** If a person obtains an MBA, their income will increase.

Conclusion Follows  
Conclusion Does Not Follow

**Conclusion Two:** If a person obtains an MBA from a top business school, their income will be higher than that of the average MBA graduate.

Conclusion Follows  
Conclusion Does Not Follow

**Conclusion Three:** The average income of an MBA graduate from a top business school is over double that of the average income of a person holding only an undergraduate degree.

Conclusion Follows  
Conclusion Does Not Follow

Hannah has been a solicitor for three years. She works for a law firm in central London and has hopes of being promoted. To be promoted in Hannah's firm, employees must have at least four years' experience practising as a solicitor. Therefore:

**Statement Four:**

**Conclusion One:** Hannah cannot be promoted because she doesn't have enough experience.

Conclusion Follows  
Conclusion Does Not Follow

**Conclusion Two:** We cannot know whether Hannah can be promoted or not.

Conclusion Follows  
Conclusion Does Not Follow

**Conclusion Three:** In 3 years' time, assuming that Hannah has not been promoted, she will be over qualified for her current position.

Conclusion Follows  
Conclusion Does Not Follow

## Section 5: Analysing arguments

### Instructions:

When making important decisions, it is useful to be able to distinguish between a strong argument and a weak argument. A strong argument is both important and directly related to the question. A weak argument is not directly related to the question, or is of minor importance. A weak argument may also be related to a trivial aspect of the question, or confuses correlation with causation (incorrectly assuming that because two things are related, they cause each other to happen).

In this series of questions, each question is followed by a series of arguments. For this section you must regard each argument as true, regardless of whether it is weak or strong.

If you consider an argument to be strong, select “**Strong Argument**”, or if you consider an argument to be weak, select “**Weak Argument**”. Judge each question and argument individually. Try not to take into account individual opinion or general knowledge since each argument is considered to be true.

This section starts with some example questions and answers.

Should Employers be bound by law to encourage diversity in the workplace?

**Example Question:**

**Example Argument One:** Yes, encouraging diversity in the workplace will ensure a variety of opinions, promoting creativity and innovation.

Strong Argument

Weak Argument

Correct answer: Strong argument.

Explanation: The argument addresses the initial statement and provides a practical benefit to an employing organisation, therefore providing a strong argument for the case.

**Example Argument Two:** No, workplace diversity leads to culture clashes, which makes the workplace tense and divided.

Strong Argument

Weak Argument

Correct answer: Strong argument.

Explanation: The argument presents a clear and practical problem with the initial statement, and addresses it directly, and is therefore a strong argument.

**Example Argument Three:** No, an overly diverse work force will mean that candidates are hired based on their demographic, and not their ability, decreasing organisational performance.

Strong Argument

Weak Argument

Correct answer: Weak argument

Explanation: The argument addresses over diversity rather than diversity in general, missing the point of the initial statement, meaning this is a weak argument.

**Example Argument Four:** Yes, organisations with diverse workplaces tend to be more successful internationally

Strong Argument

Weak Argument

Correct answer: Weak argument.

Explanation: The argument does not directly state that diversity is the cause of an organisation's success internationally, it merely states that the two correlate. This is confusing correlation with causation, implying that the two cause each other without evidence. If the statement had said "diverse workplaces make organisations more successful internationally", this would be a strong argument.

**Section 5 questions now follow.**

Should companies downsize their workforces to decrease expenses and maximise profits?

**Statement One:**

**Argument One:** Yes, downsizing will protect the company from bankruptcy in hard economic times.

Strong Argument

Weak Argument

**Argument Two:** Yes, companies have no obligation to employ more people than it can handle.

Strong Argument

Weak Argument

**Argument Three:** No, downsizing leads to demoralisation of the workforce and causes a drop in employee productivity

Strong Argument

Weak Argument

**Argument Four:** Yes, companies which have no control over the size of their workforce will be highly vulnerable to economic climates and market changes.

Strong Argument

Weak Argument

Should university-level education be free to all students?

**Statement Two:**

**Argument One:** No. Too much education can lead to over-qualification, and therefore unemployment.

Strong Argument

Weak Argument

**Argument Two:** Yes, having a highly qualified workforce ensures high levels of employee productivity in organisations.

Strong Argument

Weak Argument

**Argument Three:** No, research has shown that students that are not required to pay tuition fees; tend to slack off more and learn less during their degree.

Strong Argument

Weak Argument

Should employers allow all staff the option of flexi-time working hours?

**Statement Three:**

**Argument One:** Yes, giving staff greater flexibility will improve their work-life balance, and therefore their productivity.

Strong Argument  
Weak Argument

**Argument Two:** Yes, organisations that value their staff are on average more productive and show lower staff turnover.

Strong Argument  
Weak Argument

**Argument Three:** No, flexi time leads to employees working fewer hours. Working fewer hours will decrease an employee's exposure to the workplace, making career progression harder and leading to a less experienced workforce.

Strong Argument  
Weak Argument



Should governments implement a minimum wage, outlining a minimum amount an employee is to be paid per hour?

**Statement Four:**

**Argument One:** Yes, the existence of minimum wages is a key part of a civilised society.

Strong Argument

Weak Argument

**Argument Two:** Yes, countries that do not have a minimum wage are often impoverished and dysfunctional.

Strong Argument

Weak Argument

**Argument Three:** No, minimum wage leads to under-employment by forcing companies to take on staff part time, as they cannot afford to hire them on a full time basis.

Strong Argument

Weak Argument

Should banks and financial institutions be obligated to engage in socially-responsible investing?

**Statement Five:**

**Argument One:** Yes, engaging in socially responsible investing leads to a happier and more fulfilled workforce compared to banks which do not engage in socially-responsible investing.

Strong Argument  
Weak Argument

**Argument Two:** No, banks are for-profit institutions and have no obligation to social issues

Strong Argument  
Weak Argument

**Argument Three:** No, focusing on social responsibility detracts from the aim of making money, which is the most important endeavour for banks, and leads to a decrease in revenue and profit.

Strong Argument  
Weak Argument

**Argument Four:** No, over-regulation in the financial sector leads to decreased opportunities and therefore lower profits.

Strong Argument  
Weak Argument

Should all members of the European Union join the Eurozone and adopt the euro?

**Statement Six:**

**Argument One:** No, countries may find it difficult to adapt to a new currency.

Strong Argument  
Weak Argument

**Argument Two:** Yes, the function of the European Union is to form a single currency union.

Strong Argument  
Weak Argument

**Argument Three:** Yes, greater economic unity between countries improves foreign relations between those member countries, which in turn make each country stronger.

Strong Argument  
Weak Argument

**Argument Four:** No, instability of one Eurozone country could cause the whole Eurozone to become unstable, disrupting the economies of all countries that use the euro.

Strong Argument  
Weak Argument

Should governments be engaging in space exploration research?

**Statement Seven:**

**Argument One:** No, the money spent on these programs could be used to increase funding for education and healthcare, which would lead to increasing the quality of life for a country's people.

Strong Argument

Weak Argument

**Argument Two:** No, countries have collectively spent trillions of dollars on space exploration research already.

Strong Argument

Weak Argument

**Argument Three:** Yes, space exploration has led to numerous discoveries and ushered in the space age.

Strong Argument

Weak Argument

**Argument Four:** Yes, the findings of these space exploration research and development programmes have been successfully applied to industry, boosting the economies of the host country.

Strong Argument

Weak Argument

-- END OF TEST --