Solutions

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

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

You should attempt the questions before reading this solutions document.

You may use this document to check your answers and read the solutions to each question. It is up to you how you practice most effectively, but we suggest you work through the critical thinking test in its entirety before looking at these solutions.

If you believe there are any mistakes in these solutions we would love to be notified so that we can correct them. Please let us know at info@assessmentday.co.uk.
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.

Have a look at the example questions below with the correct answers given.
Despite the economic downturn, Germany’s GDP has risen more since 2002 in the past ten years 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


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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>True</th>
<th>Probably True</th>
<th>More Information Required</th>
<th>Probably False</th>
<th>False</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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.
This passage provides information on the rise of military spending by the Chinese and United States governments. Although it is agreed that China is rapidly modernizing its army, there is some doubt surrounding the exact amount spent. The research institute ‘PIPPI’, submits that the annual Chinese 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 many 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

Correct Answer: True

Explanation: The passage notes that the Chinese government leave certain areas out of their calculations when creating their official figures for military spending. This suggests that their official figure is misleading. In this way the inference is correct.
**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 may also be omitted from the official figure.

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

**Correct Answer:** Probably True

**Explanation:** The passage notes that “many other areas such as research” are omitted from the official figure. This suggests that other areas may also be omitted. However, we cannot be certain of this. We can infer from the passage that it is slightly more likely to be true and false. Therefore this inference is ‘probably true’ as we cannot know for certain.

**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

**Correct Answer:** More Information Required

**Explanation:** The passage provides information on the official figures for military spending. We cannot infer, based on this information that official figures for other areas are also incorrect. This would require more information.

**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

**Correct Answer:** Probably False

**Explanation:** The passage notes that the official figure for military spending omits entire areas, such as research and development on a regular basis, rather than on one occasion. This is unlikely to be a
clerical error as it happens more than once. However, we cannot be certain of this. Therefore the correct answer is ‘probably false’.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>True</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Probably True</td>
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<tr>
<td>More Information Required</td>
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<tr>
<td>Probably False</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>False</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Correct Answer: False

Explanation: This inference is false. The passage states that the United States government spent $400 billion in 2010 and the Chinese $140 billion. The USA Currently spends more on their military defences; however this is estimated to change. For this reason, this inference is false.
Turkey is a surprising addition to the list of rapidly developing economies; with an 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 growing concern regarding Turkey's growing dependency on foreign capital. A large amount of the Turkish banking system is part-owned by banks within the Euro-zone. 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>True</th>
<th>Probably True</th>
<th>More Information Required</th>
<th>Probably False</th>
<th>False</th>
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</thead>
</table>

Correct Answer: True

Explanation: This inference is true. The passage states that Turkey is a ‘surprising’ addition to the list of countries whose economy is rapidly developing. This suggests that it is performing above expectations. The passage then goes on to note that there are worries regarding the possible side effects of such growth. This suggests that there are concerns such growth will be short lived.

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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>True</th>
<th>Probably True</th>
<th>More Information Required</th>
<th>Probably False</th>
<th>False</th>
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</table>

Correct Answer: Probably True
Explanation: The inference is probably true. The passage states that one of the concerns facing the Turkish economy is that they are part owned by banks in the Euro-zone, who may not be stable. From this, we may infer that the Turkish banks are likely to effect by the wellbeing of the European banks. However, there is some uncertainty surrounding this, therefore we cannot say it is 100% true, only that it is probably true.

**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.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>True</th>
<th>Probably True</th>
<th>More Information Required</th>
<th>Probably False</th>
<th>False</th>
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</thead>
</table>

Correct Answer: More Information Required

Explanation: The passage fails to mention why the Turkish banks are part owned by European banks. We require further information on this point.

**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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>True</th>
<th>Probably True</th>
<th>More Information Required</th>
<th>Probably False</th>
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</table>

Correct Answer: More information required

Explanation: The passage fails to mention why the Turkish banks are part owned by European banks. We would therefore require more information at this stage.

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>True</th>
<th>Probably True</th>
<th>More Information Required</th>
<th>Probably False</th>
<th>False</th>
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</table>

Correct Answer: False
Explanation: This statement is false. The passage notes that the Turkish economy was performing better than expected during 2011. This suggests it is far from stagnant.

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-blond 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-blond hypothesis’ suggests that more attractive women are less capable of being intelligent.

True
Probably True
More Information Required
Probably False
False

Correct Answer: False

Explanation: The passage states that the ‘dumb-blond hypothesis’ is that people think beautiful women are thought to be unintelligent. So based on the passage alone we are told that the theory describes how people perceive beautiful women to be unintelligent.

**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

Correct Answer: Probably True.

Explanation: This inference is probably true. The passage fails to state why the Belgian public sector has chosen to implement this method of selection; however, we can infer, based on the nature of the information in the passage and the topic discussed, that this is a likely reason behind the method chosen. As we cannot be certain of this, this correct answer is ‘probably true’.

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


Explanation: The passage fails to provide information on the success rate of this selection method; it simply outlines it. Therefore we cannot say whether this model has been successful. For this reason we require further information before we can make this inference.

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

Correct Answer: Probably False

Explanation: This inference is probably false. While the passage fails to provide information on the success rate of this model of employee selection, it states that under this model, future employees cannot provide pictures of themselves with their application. This would suggest that discrimination would be reduced, rather than increased. However based on the information provided, we cannot say this for certain. For example what is to say increased visual discrimination takes place in the interview. For this reason, the correct answer is ‘probably 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.

See the example questions below with the correct answers given.
Example Statement:

**Example Assumption One:** Public sector employees are less satisfied than private sector employees.

- Assumption Made
- Assumption Not Made

Correct answer: The correct answer is ASSUMPTION NOT MADE, because the statement does not mention the levels of satisfaction in the private sector, and therefore it is not assumed that private sector employees are more satisfied.

**Example Assumption Two:** Private sector employees are subjected to organisational change less often than public sector employees.

- Assumption Made
- Assumption Not Made

Correct answer: The correct answer is ASSUMPTION MADE, because the statement directly states that public sector organisations undergo organisational change more often than private sector organisations.

**Example Assumption Three:** Private sector organisations rarely undergo organisational changes.

- Assumption Made
- Assumption Not Made

Correct answer: The correct answer is ASSUMPTION NOT MADE, because the statement does not state how often organisation changes occur in the private sector, it just compares them to the public sector, therefore we cannot assume that private sector companies rarely undergo organisational changes.

Section 2 questions now follow.
Monarchic nations, those with royal families, differ from republican nations in several ways. An example of this difference is that citizens of monarchic nations pay, on average, 0.8% more in tax than citizens of republican nations.

**Statement One:**

**Assumption 1:** The governments of monarchic nations set a higher tax rate than those of republican nations.

- Assumption Made
- Assumption Not Made

Correct answer: The correct answer is **ASSUMPTION NOT MADE**. Although monarchic nations pay more in tax that does not necessarily mean they pay a high tax rate. For example it is possible monarchic nations pay a lower tax rate, but because they have higher incomes on average, the gross amount of tax paid would be higher than republican nations. Therefore the assumption is not made.

**Assumption 2:** The level of tax is not the only way in which monarchic and republican nations differ.

- Assumption Made
- Assumption Not Made

Correct answer: The correct answer is **ASSUMPTION MADE**, because the statement notes that the two types of nation are different in 'several ways'. This suggests that the level of tax is not the only difference.

**Assumption 3:** Life in a monarchic nation is different to life in a republican nation.

- Assumption Made
- Assumption Not Made

Correct answer: **ASSUMPTION MADE**, because the statement assumes that life is different as a result of having differences in governance/rule.

**Assumption 4:** Levels of tax are not uniform, but differ depending on the nation.

- Assumption Made
- Assumption Not Made
In 2008, the President of the United States of America promised to prevent the country entering economic depression. However, at the beginning of 2012, over 12 million Americans were unemployed.

Correct answer: The correct answer is ASSUMPTION MADE, because the statement notes the difference in the amount of tax is an ‘average’ figure. This suggests the level of tax is not uniform.

Statement Two:

**Assumption 1:** The president of the United States of America has failed to live up to this expectation.

Assumption Made
Assumption Not Made

Correct answer: The correct answer is ASSUMPTION NOT MADE. The statement does not state that the country has entered depression, and therefore it cannot be said that the president has failed to live up to this expectation.

**Assumption 2:** In 2008, the United States of America was suffering an economic depression.

Assumption Made
Assumption Not Made

Correct answer: The correct answer is ASSUMPTION NOT MADE. The statement stated that the president has promised to prevent a depression, therefore the country cannot already be in depression.

**Assumption 3:** During 2012, the level of unemployment in the United States of America continued to increase.

Assumption Made
Assumption Not Made

Correct answer: The correct answer is ASSUMPTION NOT MADE. The statement makes no reference to the figure of unemployment increasing or changing; it is the figure at a certain point only.
Between 2011 and 2012, Chilean students staged several protests demanding that university education in Chile should be made free.

**Statement Three:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assumption 1: Prior to 20112, Universities in Chile were free of charge.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assumption Made</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assumption Not Made</td>
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</table>

Correct answer: The correct answer is ASSUMPTION NOT MADE. The statement notes that protestors demanded that universities ‘should be made’ free. This suggests that prior to 2012; universities in Chile charged fees and were not free. The statement assumes that the students were protesting for a change. It could in fact be that they were protesting about a proposed change.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assumption 2: Between 2011 and 2012, students in Chile held more than one protest on the topic of university fees.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Assumption Made</td>
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<td>Assumption Not Made</td>
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</table>

Correct answer: The correct answer is ASSUMPTION MADE. The statement notes that Chilean students held ‘several’ protests. We are therefore right to assume that there was more than on protest.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assumption 3: Chilean students cannot afford the level of fees charged by the universities.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Assumption Made</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assumption Not Made</td>
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Correct answer: The correct answer is ASSUMPTION NOT MADE. The statement makes no reference as to why the students demanded universities should be free.
Due to the growth of the charity sector, many second hand book shops have been unable to compete against charity shops in the second hand book market. This is because the tax exempt status provided to charitable organisations allows charity shops to sell goods at lower prices.

**Statement Four:**

**Assumption 1:** Due to their tax exempt status, charity shops now dominate the second hand book market.

Assumption Made
Assumption Not Made

Correct answer: The correct answer is ASSUMPTION NOT MADE. The statement does not state the market share charity shops have in this market, nor does it suggest that they are the largest force in this market, it only states that “many” second hand book shops are unable to compete.

**Assumption 2:** Second hand book shops are at a disadvantage when competing in the second hand book market.

Assumption Made
Assumption Not Made

Correct answer: The correct answer is ASSUMPTION MADE. Due to the tax exempt status of charity shops, second hand book shops are at a clear financial disadvantage compared to charity shops.

**Assumption 3:** Charity shops use their tax exempt status to out compete other local businesses by offering lower prices than their competitors.

Assumption Made
Assumption Not Made

Correct answer: The correct answer is ASSUMPTION NOT MADE, as the statement does not mention any other businesses or markets which it competes.
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 agree that the conclusion follows 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 on the facts presented.

See the example questions below with the correct answers given.
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 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.
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.

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 2 questions now follow.

Statement one:

| Conclusion One: Outsourcing functions to Business process outsourcing companies will cut expenses |
| Conclusion Follows |
| Conclusion Does Not Follow |

Correct Answer: conclusion does not follow.

Explanation: Although this company saved money on their IT function, it does not state that other companies will also save money, or that other functions if outsourced would save company money.

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

| Conclusion Follows |
| Conclusion Does Not Follow |

Correct Answer: Conclusion does not follow.

Explanation: The statement does not say that the organisation is a for-profit organisation, and does not mention profitability in the statement, the aim of the outsourcing was to cut expenses. Who is to say what their aim was regarding income (and therefore profit)?

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 |
Correct Answer: Conclusion follows.

Explanation: The statement notes that by outsourcing its IT function it has cut its IT expenses by 20%, suggesting that the previous function was \( \frac{1}{5} \) (20%) more expensive, and therefore outsourcing has saved \( \frac{1}{5} \) of the IT expenditure.
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

Correct Answer: Conclusion does not follow.

Explanation: The statement notes that new companies are more likely to fail. This does not mean that all new companies will fail. The correct answer is, therefore, 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

Correct Answer: Conclusion follows.

Explanation: The statement notes that new companies are more likely to fail. As a new company, Sarah’s company is therefore more likely to fail. The correct answer is therefore conclusion follows.

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

Conclusion Follows
Conclusion Does Not Follow

Correct Answer: Conclusion follows.

Explanation: The statement notes that new companies are more likely to fail than well-established companies. Well established companies are therefore more likely to succeed. The correct answer is therefore conclusion follows.
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**

Correct Answer: Conclusion does not follow.

Explanation: There are other reasons why such companies may be more successful, for example the goods may be of a better quality or the type of goods may have a specific taste which is popular, or they may prove better value. Therefore, we cannot say that these companies are more successful because their goods are more expensive.

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

**Conclusion Follows**

Correct Answer: Conclusion does not follow.

Explanation: There are many reasons why such companies may be more successful, taste is only one option. Therefore we cannot make this deduction without further information.

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

**Conclusion Follows**

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

Explanation: The statement notes that companies selling these types of goods are more successful. Therefore, we can state that it is a good business model advertising practice to sell such items.

Statement four:

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

Correct Answer: Conclusion does not follow.

Explanation: The information in the statement does not offer a prediction to the amount of rainfall; it only states that predictions of rainfall are rarely accurate. We cannot deduce what the prediction was based on the statement, therefore the conclusion does not follow.

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

Correct Answer: Conclusion follows.

The rainfall in May 2012 was the highest on record for the past 50 years; therefore it must have been higher than the May 2011 levels.

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

Correct Answer: Conclusion does not follow.

Explanation: The statement refers to the rain fall in May 2012 being higher than usual. The statement makes no reference to May being usually dry. Based on the information in the statement alone, the correct answer is 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 reduced in value since 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**

Answer: Conclusion Follows.

Explanation: Based on the information provided about similarly high performing companies, we are able to make the conclusion that Facebook may meet a similar fate after May 2012. The key word here is ‘may’, as we are unable to say for certain, based on the information provided that this will definitely happen. Based on the information in the statement and the use of the word ‘may’ in the conclusion, the correct answer is conclusion follows.

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

**Conclusion Follows**

**Conclusion Does Not Follow**

Answer: Conclusion Does Not Follow.

Explanation: The passage does not state that social networking sights perform badly once they become publicly listed. We cannot deduce this from the passage, and therefore the 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**

Answer: 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:

Explanation: Based on the information in the above statement we are unable to say that all companies drop in value. The statement notes three companies that have decreased in value, however we cannot apply this to all companies. The correct answer is therefore conclusion does not follow.

Statement Six:

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

- Conclusion Follows
- Conclusion Does Not Follow

**Answer:** Conclusion Does Not Follow.

Explanation: Based on the information contained in the statement, we are also told that bankers are “no longer” seen as reliable or trustworthy. For this reason, we are unable to say that banks have never been trusted. For this reason, the correct answer is 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

**Answer:** Conclusion Does Not Follow.

Explanation: The statement notes that ‘reliability’ is one of the key problems facing the financial sector. For this reason, we are unable to conclude that ‘reliability’ is no longer an issue. The correct answer is therefore conclusion does not follow.

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

- Conclusion Follows
Coley’s is a company that produces scented candles, using only natural products. Coley’s are against testing on animals and do not use pesticides in any of their products. Therefore:

Conclusion Does Not Follow

Answer: Conclusion Follows.

Explanation: The passage states that one of the reasons for the problems facing the financial sector is that executives are seen as overpaid. Overpaying executives will lead to the public seeing executives as overpaid. This conclusion therefore follows.

Statement seven:

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

Conclusion Follows
Conclusion Does Not Follow

Answer: Conclusion does not follow.

Explanation: Although the ingredients are said to be natural, it does not specifically state what those ingredients are, and therefore we cannot deduce that fruits and berries are the ingredients, therefore the conclusion does not follow.

**Conclusion Two:** Coley’s products are unlikely to contain manmade setting agents.

Conclusion Follows
Conclusion Does Not Follow

Answer: Conclusion Follows.

Explanation: Based on the description of the products made by Coley’s and the ingredients they use, we can conclude that these products are unlikely to include manmade setting agents. For this reason, the correct answer is conclusion follows.

**Conclusion Three:** Coley’s products are likely to be more expensive.
Conclusion Follows
Conclusion Does Not Follow

Answer: Conclusion Does Not Follow.

Explanation: The statement fails to make reference to the price of these items. Therefore, we are unable to conclude that they are more expensive. For this reason the correct answer is 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.

Read the example questions below then answer the questions which follow.
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conclusion Follows</th>
<th>Conclusion Does Not Follow</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conclusion Follows</th>
<th>Conclusion Does Not Follow</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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 people will want to work with her than any other member of staff. The correct answer is therefore, conclusion follows.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conclusion Follows</th>
<th>Conclusion Does Not Follow</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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 does not follow therefore because we do not have the information required to come to this conclusion.
Section 4 questions now follow.

Statement one:

**Conclusion One:** The ‘coconut express’ is the second most popular drink sold by the Tapoloa Club.

Conclusion Follows
Conclusion Does Not Follow

Answer: Conclusion Does Not Follow.

Explanation: The statement does not state the popularity of the “coconut express, it just mentions its name, so we cannot therefore make a conclusion of its popularity, the conclusion does not therefore follow.

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

Conclusion Follows
Conclusion Does Not Follow

Answer: Conclusion Does Not Follow.

Explanation: Based on the information in the statement alone, we are unable to say whether or not all themed clubs in London sell unusual drinks. The statement is based on one club alone and does not mention others. For this reason, we are unable to deduce this conclusion. The correct answer is therefore, 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

Answer: Conclusion follows.

Explanation: The passage states “cocktails in containers such as Pineapples and coconuts, such as the ‘coconut express’ and the ‘pineapple pick-up’ respectively” informing that pineapples are the...
The British National Library has the largest collection of publicly-owned books in the United Kingdom. Therefore:

container for the coconut express, and pineapples are the container for the pineapple pick up, so therefore the conclusion follows. It was an incorrect conclusion to assume because the fruit was mentioned in the drinks name, that the container would therefore be that fruit.

Statement Two:

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

**Conclusion Follows**
**Conclusion Does Not Follow**

Answer: Conclusion Follows.

Explanation: The statement notes that the British National Library is the largest collection of publicly owned books. However, it is possible that there are larger collections of privately owned books. For this reason the correct answer is conclusion follows.

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

**Conclusion Follows**
**Conclusion Does Not Follow**

Answer: Conclusion Does Not Follow.

Explanation: The statement notes that the British National Library is the largest collection of publicly owned books. For this reason, it is not possible for there to be a larger publicly owned collection. The correct answer is therefore conclusion does not follow.

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

**Conclusion Follows**
**Conclusion Does Not Follow**

Answer: Conclusion Follows.
Explanation: The statement notes that the British National Library has the largest collection of publicly owned books in the United Kingdom. For this reason we can deduce that the British National Library is itself within the United Kingdom. The correct answer is therefore conclusion follows.
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**

Answer: Conclusion does not follow.

Explanation: The statement does not say that obtaining an MBA is the cause for the increase in income, and therefore it is fallacious to conclude that obtaining in MBA will increase your income purely based on the statement above. Just because average incomes for an MBA graduate are higher does not imply that these are the cause of the increase, and therefore is no guarantee to increase income.

**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**

Answer: Conclusion Does Not Follow.

Explanation: The statement does not say that obtaining a top MBA is the cause of the increase in income between top and average MBA recipient incomes. Because correlation does not imply causation, we cannot conclude that the achievement of a top school MBA is the cause of this income difference, based on the information provided.
**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**

**Answer:** Conclusion Follows.

**Explanation:** Because the income of an average MBA student is 70% larger than that of an undergraduate, and a top MBA graduate’s income is 50% greater than the average MBA income. We can therefore conclude that the average income of a top MBA graduate is more than double the average person holding only an undergraduate degree.
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**

Answer: Conclusion Follows.

Explanation: The statement notes that to be promoted, members of staff must have at least four years’ experience practising as a solicitor. We are also aware that Hannah only has three years of experience practising as a solicitor. Therefore, she does not meet the required number of years’ experience. For this reason, the correct answer is conclusion follows.

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

**Conclusion Follows**
**Conclusion Does Not Follow**

Answer: Conclusion Does Not Follow.

Explanation: The statement notes that to be promoted, members of staff must have at least four years’ experience practising as a solicitor. We are also aware that Hannah only has three years of experience practising as a solicitor. Therefore, she does not meet the required number of years’ experience. With this in mind, we are able to say that she cannot be promoted. For this reason, the correct answer is conclusion does not follow.
**Conclusion Three:** In 3 years’ time, assuming Hannah has not been promoted, she will be over qualified for her current position.

Answer: Conclusion Does Not Follow.

Explanation: the passage does not refer to over qualification, and cannot therefore conclude that she will be over qualified. The passage states that 4 years is the minimum requirement for promotion, but does not state that she will be guaranteed a promotion, or that her current role will be unsuitable to her after her four years as a solicitor.
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 or may 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 if 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.

Read the following example questions below before attempting the questions.
Example Question:

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

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.

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.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strong Argument</th>
<th>Weak Argument</th>
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</table>

Correct answer: weak argument.

Explanation: Accepting the argument as true, avoiding bankruptcy is an essential motive for an organisation, however the statement does not discuss bankruptcy and it is discussing profits and expenses. Protection against bankruptcy is not the topic and is straying from the point, and is therefore a weak argument.

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strong Argument</th>
<th>Weak Argument</th>
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</table>

Correct answer: weak argument.

Explanation: Although the point is taken to be true, it does not provide evidence for the benefits of its position, it merely states an irrelevant fact, making this a weak argument.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strong Argument</th>
<th>Weak Argument</th>
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</table>

Correct answer: Strong argument.

Explanation: The argument addresses the initial statement directly, providing a clear disadvantage of the statement, suggesting this is a strong 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.

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**Strong Argument**

**Weak Argument**

Correct answer: Weak argument.

Explanation: The initial question does not discuss taking away the company’s right to control its own size, only one aspect of it. Therefore the point is arguing a separate question, rather than the initial one, presenting a 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.

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<tr>
<th>Strong Argument</th>
<th>Weak Argument</th>
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</table>

Correct answer: Weak argument.

Explanation: The argument only addresses too much education and over qualification, and the statement does not discuss these issues, as a result the argument does not fully address the statement. Therefore the argument is a weak argument.

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

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<th>Strong Argument</th>
<th>Weak Argument</th>
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</table>

Correct answer: Strong argument.

Explanation: If the argument is to be taken as true, then this provides a very clear and relevant benefit to free university education, presenting a strong argument.

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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Strong Argument</th>
<th>Weak Argument</th>
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</table>

Correct answer: Strong argument.

Explanation: The argument presents direct evidence for the point it presents, and addresses a serious disadvantage of the initial statement. The statement addresses the initial point directly and is therefore a strong 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.

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<tr>
<th>Strong Argument</th>
<th>Weak Argument</th>
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</thead>
</table>

Correct answer: Strong argument.

Explanation: The argument provides a clear and direct benefit of the initial statement, and directly addresses the statement, making this a strong argument.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strong Argument</th>
<th>Weak Argument</th>
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</table>

Correct answer: Weak argument.

Explanation: The argument does not specifically address flexi time, it argues a separate point regarding valuing staff, which is missing the point and is therefore a 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strong Argument</th>
<th>Weak Argument</th>
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</table>

Correct answer: Strong argument.

Explanation: The argument provides two relevant arguments for its position, and both offer clear disadvantages which directly relate the initial statement, making this a strong 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.

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<tr>
<th>Strong Argument</th>
<th>Weak Argument</th>
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</table>

Correct answer: Weak argument.

Explanation: The argument does not present any advantages of a minimum wage, it only presents a statement about a minimum wage, not defending its position, making this a weak argument.

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strong Argument</th>
<th>Weak Argument</th>
</tr>
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</table>

Correct answer: Weak argument.

Explanation: The argument does not state that the absence of a minimum wage is the cause of poverty and dysfunction, it just state that these two things coincide, not addressing the point of the argument and presenting a 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strong Argument</th>
<th>Weak Argument</th>
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</table>

Correct answer: Strong argument.
Should banks and financial institutions be obligated to engage in socially-responsible investing?

Explanation: The argument presents a clear disadvantage of the initial statement, outlining the result and how the result would occur, presenting a strong argument.

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.

Correct answer: Strong argument.

Explanation: The argument addresses the question directly, and offers two clear advantages of the premise described in the statement, directly addressing the question and presenting a strong argument.

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

Correct answer: weak argument.

Explanation: The argument does not provide any benefits of its position or advantageous outcomes; it merely describes its position. This is a weak argument as it does not provide a strong basis for its point, only providing an explanation of its point.

**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.
Correct answer: Strong argument.

Explanation: The argument presents a clear disadvantage of the premise in the statement, directly addressing the question and providing evidence for its claim. This is therefore a strong argument.

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

Correct answer: Weak argument.

Explanation: The initial question does not discuss regulation of the financial services sector, so the argument is not addressing the initial point, making it a weak argument.
Statement Six:

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strong Argument</th>
<th>Weak Argument</th>
</tr>
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</table>

Correct answer: Weak argument.

Explanation: The passage does not provide any evidence for its claim by describing the outcome of its position, and it only states that countries “may” find it difficult, suggesting there is no guarantee, making this a weak argument.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strong Argument</th>
<th>Weak Argument</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Correct answer: Weak argument.

Explanation: The argument does not provide evidence for an advantage of a currency union; it merely states the function of the European Union, which does not support its claim. This is therefore a weak argument.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strong Argument</th>
<th>Weak Argument</th>
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</table>

Correct answer: Strong argument.
Explanation: The argument directly answer the question in the initial statement, provides an explanation for its opinion and describes a positive outcome of its premise. This is therefore a strong argument.

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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Strong Argument</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weak Argument</td>
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</table>

Correct answer: Strong argument.

Explanation: The argument presents a serious problem with the Eurozone concept, and is directly related to the initial question. The argument explains its point and states the outcome, presenting a strong 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**

Correct answer: Strong argument.

Explanation: The argument addresses the initial question, provides an explanation of its point and provides the outcome of its stated point. This suggests that this is a strong argument.

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

**Strong Argument**
**Weak Argument**

Correct answer: Weak argument.

Explanation: This argument does not provide an explanation for why space exploration should not be funded, it simply states that trillions of dollars have already been spent, not explaining its position, making it a weak argument.

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

**Strong Argument**
**Weak Argument**

Correct answer: weak argument.
Explanation: Although the agreement states that discoveries have been made, it does not go into
detail about the benefits of these discoveries, and the reference to the space age does not imply a
benefit. Therefore this is a 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strong Argument</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weak Argument</td>
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</table>

Correct answer: strong argument.

Explanation: The argument directly addresses the initial question, and provides a practical benefit of
the initial premise, making this a strong argument.

-- END OF TEST --