

Free Critical Thinking Test Inferences

Solutions Booklet

Instructions

This practice critical thinking test will assess your ability to make inferences and logical assumptions and to reason with supported arguments.

You should attempt the questions **before reading** this solutions document.

You may use this document to check your answers and to read the reasoning behind 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 4: 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.

Statement One:

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 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.

Q1

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 true.

Q2

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 their official figure for military spending.

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

Correct answer: Probably True

Explanation: The passage notes that "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 than false. Therefore, this inference is 'probably true' as we cannot know for certain.

Q3

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 of government spending are also incorrect. This would require more information.

Q4

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 that a clerical error has not occurred. Therefore, the correct answer is 'probably false'.

Q5

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

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

Correct answer: False

Explanation: This inference is false. The passage states that the United States government spent \$400 billion in 2010 and (based on PIPPI's research) the Chinese spent over \$120 billion. The official Chinese figures are given as less than half this figure. Whilst the passage envisages that, in the future, China may spend more on defence than the USA, in 2010 this was not the case. For this reason, this inference is false.

Statement Two

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.

Q6

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

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.

Q7

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

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 Eurozone. The passage does not speculate over whether the Eurozone banks are likely to face financial instability, but by the fact that they are stated as linked, if Eurozone banks do face difficulty, the part-owned Turkish banks are also likely to suffer, but as this is not for definite, the answer is not 'True' but probably true.

Q8

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

Correct answer: More Information Required

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

Q9

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

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 before making this inference.

Q10

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

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

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.

Statement Three

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.

Q11

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

- True
- Probably True
- Insufficient Data
- Probably False
- False

Correct answer: False

Explanation: The passage suggests that there's a perception of *lack* of intelligence in beautiful women ("thought to be unintelligent"). A stereotype where people may simply *believe* attractive women are unintelligent, regardless of any consideration of capability. The inference, however, introduces the idea that attractiveness affects *capability* ("less capable of being intelligent"), which implies an actual limitation or deficiency in their potential to be intelligent, rather than just a perception. This is a subtle but significant difference.

Q12

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
- Insufficient Data
- 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, the correct answer is 'probably true'.

Q13

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
- Insufficient Data
- Probably False
- False

Correct answer: More Information Required

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

Q14

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
- Insufficient Data
- 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, increased visual discrimination may in fact take place in the interview. For this reason, the correct answer is probably false.

-- END OF CRITICAL THINKING TEST --