

TEST BANK

Multiple Choice

(Correct answers are marked with an asterisk.)

1. If an opinion is true, then it is...
 - a. Certain
 - b. Still objectionable
 - * c. A fact
 - d. Common sense
2. Your background information consists of...
 - a. Beliefs that are certain
 - b. Both well-supported and obviously false beliefs
 - c. Numerous valid arguments
 - * d. Very well-supported beliefs
3. If a claim conflicts with our background information, we have good reason to...
 - a. Accept it
 - * b. Doubt it
 - c. Reject it
 - d. Replace it
4. When a claim is neither worthy of outright rejection nor deserving of complete acceptance, we should...
 - * a. Proportion our belief to the evidence
 - b. Proportion our belief to background information
 - c. Tentatively accept it
 - d. Tentatively reject it
5. It is not reasonable to believe a claim when...
 - a. It is criticized
 - b. Most people reject it
 - * c. There is no good reason for doing so
 - d. There is no good reason for examining it
6. We are often justified in believing a claim because...
 - a. Most people believe it
 - b. Experts disagree about it
 - c. Experts have not accepted it
 - * d. It comes from experts
7. When experts disagree about a claim, we have good reason to...
 - a. Reject it
 - b. Believe it
 - * c. Doubt it

- d. Dismiss it
8. The two most revealing indicators of an expert's reliability are...
- a. Education and experience in making reliable judgments
 - b. Education and lack of conflicts of interest
 - c. Reputation and training
 - * d. Reputation among peers and professional accomplishments
9. It is reasonable to accept the evidence provided by personal experience only if...
- a. It is backed by scientific evidence
 - * b. There's no good reason to doubt it
 - c. We are infallible
 - d. It is corroborated by other people
10. Experts are more likely to be right because they have access to more information on the subject than we do and because...
- * a. They are better at judging the information than we are.
 - b. The information has been checked
 - c. They are experts
 - d. They have credentials
11. When we regard a nonexpert as an expert, we ...
- a. Certify that expert's credentials
 - b. Rely on the true expert
 - c. Fall into the fallacy of available evidence
 - * d. Fall into the fallacious appeal to authority
12. Personal experience, although generally reliable, is...
- a. Infallible
 - b. Difficult to quantify
 - c. Not trustworthy
 - * d. Not infallible
13. Eyewitness testimony is...
- a. Unorthodox
 - b. Authoritative
 - c. Reliable
 - * d. Unreliable
14. Other things being equal, the more background information a claim conflicts with, the more reason we have to...
- a. Revise our background information
 - b. Believe it
 - * c. Doubt it
 - d. Try to prove it

15. We fall into a fallacious appeal to authority when we...
- a. Judge the authority's credentials to be good
 - b. Respect science and its methods
 - * c. Think that just because someone is an expert in one field, he or she is necessarily an expert in another
 - d. Doubt the results of a scientific study
16. Bias on the part of an expert is the chief reason for . . .
- a. Rejecting everything the expert has said
 - b. Accepting the expert's claims
 - *c. Doubting that expert
 - d. The availability error
17. The error of thinking that previous events can affect the probabilities in the random event at hand is known as...
- * a. The gambler's fallacy
 - b. The availability error
 - c. The bias fallacy
 - d. The appeal to ignorance
18. When our perceptual powers are impaired or impeded, we ...
- a. Are more aware of possible mistakes
 - *b. Have a reason to doubt our perceptual powers
 - c. Cannot trust any arguments
 - d. Are in a normal state
19. When we seek out and use only evidence that confirms our views, we are guilty of...
- a. Resisting contrary evidence
 - * b. Confirmation bias
 - c. Fallacious appeals to authority
 - d. Probability errors
20. When we rely on evidence not because it is trustworthy but because it is memorable or striking, we are guilty of...
- * a. The availability error
 - b. Confirmation bias
 - c. Resisting contrary evidence
 - d. The gambler's fallacy

Short Answer/Short Essay

1. What principle should guide us in assessing the reliability of personal experience? Why should we rely on this principle?
2. What should we do when a claim is in dispute among experts? Why?

3. Is it reasonable to regard a nonexpert as an expert? Why or why not?
4. What is confirmation bias? How does it affect our thinking?
5. What is the availability error? How does it affect our thinking?