

Test Item File

Chapter 1: Basic Logical Concepts

Multiple Choice

1. In which of the following subjects is reasoning outside the concern of logicians?
A) science and medicine
B) ethics
C) politics
D) none of the above
Answer: D

2. In correct reasoning,
A) all of the propositions are true.
B) the truth of the premises guarantees the truth of the conclusion.
C) the conclusion is never false.
D) the conclusion supports the premises.
Answer: B

3. The process of arriving at and affirming one proposition on the basis of one or more other propositions is called:
A) inference
B) hypothetical proposition
C) soundness
D) validity
Answer: A

4. "If undergraduate education in the Humanities is to be successful, students must take courses in a broad range of areas including history, literature, philosophy, and art."
This is an example of:
A) an argument
B) a disjunctive proposition
C) a conditional proposition
D) none of the above
Answer: C

5. "Either cigarette smoking in eating establishments should be banned or these establishments should have designated smoking areas."
This is an example of:
A) an argument

- B) a disjunctive proposition
- C) a hypothetical proposition
- D) none of the above

Answer: B

6. "Cigarette smoking should be banned in all public eating and drinking establishments because second-hand smoke has been shown to be detrimental to one's health."

This is an example of:

- A) an argument
- B) a disjunctive proposition
- C) a hypothetical proposition
- D) none of the above

Answer: A

7. "(1) If you raise prices even a little, fewer people will buy your product. (2) If fewer people buy your product, your scale of production will become smaller. (3) If your scale becomes smaller, you won't be able to get the same low bulk prices on supplies that you get now, and (4) if you pay higher prices for your supplies, your costs will go up. (5) If that happens, your profits will go down."

What is the conclusion of this passage?

- A) (1)
- B) (2)
- C) (5)
- D) There is no stated conclusion.

Answer: D

8. "(1) The government should enact legislation permitting euthanasia. (2) Without this legislation people are denied their autonomy. (3) People have the right to die with dignity and ought to be able to choose to live or die."

What is the conclusion of this passage?

- A) (1)
- B) (2)
- C) (3)
- D) There is no stated conclusion.

Answer: A

9. "In this area, a lot of snow usually means we'll have a cool summer. We've had a lot of snow this winter (even though it wasn't very cold). I think we'll have a cool summer."

This is:

- A) a deductive argument with an unstated conclusion.
- B) an inductive argument with the last sentence as a conclusion.
- C) neither inductive nor deductive, because its conclusion is false.
- D) not an argument at all.

Answer: B

10. "Women's liberation is solely the product of technological advances in the control of reproduction and the social need to have more bodies to tend to the machines produced by technology."

This is an example of:

- A) an argument
- B) a complex proposition
- C) a simple proposition
- D) none of the above

Answer: B

True or False

11. An invalid deductive argument is always unsound.

Answer: TRUE

12. In logic, the truth of the premises must be established before any other analysis can occur.

Answer: FALSE

13. An argument with a false premise cannot be valid.

Answer: FALSE

14. No valid deductive argument can be made any stronger by adding more premises, no matter what the premises state.

Answer: TRUE

15. If a passage does not contain a conclusion, it cannot be an argument.

Answer: FALSE

Pattern Match

16. A _____ proposition makes only one assertion.
complex, simple, disjunctive
Answer: simple
17. The _____ of an argument is the proposition that is affirmed on the basis of other propositions in the argument.
conclusion, premise, complex proposition
Answer: conclusion
18. An inductive argument claims to support its conclusion only with some degree of _____.
validity, probability, soundness
Answer: probability
19. _____ arguments are never evaluated in terms of validity.
Deductive, Sound, Inductive
Answer: Inductive
20. An argument is _____ when it is valid and all of its premises are true.
sound, invalid, valid
Answer: sound

Chapter 2: Analyzing Arguments

Multiple Choice

1. "The killing of an innocent person is immoral. Therefore, abortion is immoral."
The unstated proposition in this argument is:
A) Murder is illegal.
B) Innocent people have no rights.
C) Abortion kills innocent persons.
D) Abortion is legal in the United States.
Answer: C
2. "Torture treats the victim as merely a means to an end. Therefore, it is immoral."
The unstated proposition in this argument is:
A) Torture is useful for getting information out of people.
B) The U.S. sanctions the use of torture.
C) Treating a person as merely a means to an end is immoral.
D) None of the above.
Answer: C
3. "(1) Workers are often exposed to contamination in the workplace and are not warned of the dangers of this exposure. (2) For instance, asbestos workers were not told for many years of the dangers of contracting asbestosis. (3) And farm workers are often misled about the dangers of insecticides and fertilizers. (4) Tougher legislation should be enacted in order to insure the safety of all workers."
Which sentence is the conclusion?
A) Sentence (1)
B) Sentence (2)
C) Sentence (3)
D) Sentence (4)
Answer: D
4. "(1) The prince greeted a small crowd of well-wishers outside his palace yesterday. (2) He pointed out several architectural features of the building that historians have found interesting. (3) Apparently, there are several aspects of the building that are not typical of the time it was built, and (4) the prince clearly enjoyed having the opportunity to share his knowledge with such an appreciative audience."
Which sentence presents the conclusion of the passage?
A) Sentence (1)
B) Sentence (2)

- C) Sentence (3)
 - D) Sentence (4)
 - E) There is no conclusion.
- Answer: E

5. "(1) Lawns need constant maintenance, so (2) busy people should hire someone to take care of them. (3) I like a nicely kept lawn."
Which sentence is the conclusion?

- A) Sentence (1)
 - B) Sentence (2)
 - C) Sentence (3)
 - D) There is no conclusion.
- Answer: B

6. "(1) Computer processor speeds double every 18 months, so business computers should be replaced every three years or so. (2) This amazing fact has been true since personal computers entered the marketplace. (3) So, these four-year-old computers on our desks ought to be replaced."

- Which is true about this argument?
- A) (1) and (2) independently support (3).
 - B) (1) and (2) jointly support (3).
 - C) (2) and (3) independently support (1).
 - D) (2) and (3) jointly support (1).
- Answer: B

7. "(1) It has come to my attention that the staff has turned my free-meal policy into a considerable expense to the restaurant. (2) For example, though our lobster purchases have risen dramatically, our sales of lobster dinners have remained flat. (3) We are going to have to charge employees a percentage of the price of the meals they eat at work. (4) After all, who wouldn't give themselves the best of everything for free?"

- How does sentence (4) function in this passage?
- A) It is a conclusion in the form of a question.
 - B) It is a premise that works jointly with (1) and (2).
 - C) It is really a premise that independently provides some support for (3).
 - D) It is a rhetorical question with no logical force in the passage.
- Answer: C

8. “(1) I’ll tell you why the mayor decided to modify the city’s curbs for wheelchair users. (2) First, the city has a moral obligation to do so. (3) Second, since there are more voters in wheelchairs than ever before, they will be more likely to vote for the mayor in the next election if he makes life easier for them.”

What is true of this passage?

- A) Sentences (2) and (3) support the truth of (1).
- B) Sentences (1), (2) and (3) deductively support an unstated conclusion.
- C) Sentences (2) and (3) explain (1).
- D) Sentence (1) explains (2) and (3).

Answer: C

9. “(1) Skinner’s utopian society ought to be rejected. (2) The sort of society Skinner proposes in *Walden Two* is a non-competitive, lifeless society that lacks creativity and imagination. (3) It also lacks the conditions that make for festivity and fantasy, two significant human traits. (4) The type of society that Skinner proposes would turn people into robots.”

Which sentence expresses the conclusion of the argument?

- A) (1)
- B) (2)
- C) (3)
- D) (4)

Answer: A

10. Brainteasers are valuable activities because:

- A) They develop reasoning skills.
- B) They reveal the complexities of life.
- C) They waste time.
- D) None of the above.

Answer: A

True or False

11. Paraphrasing an argument allows us to see more clearly the logical relations between the statements in the argument.

Answer: TRUE

12. Retrograde analysis is the use of spatial relations to map the structure of an argument.

Answer: FALSE

13. In logic, the term “matrix” refers to virtual reality.
Answer: FALSE
14. In a complex interwoven argument, “premise” and “conclusion” can be relative terms.
Answer: TRUE
15. In analyzing an argument one must ignore authorial intent.
Answer: FALSE

Pattern Match

16. To clarify the relations between the premises and conclusion in an argument, it is often helpful to _____ or diagram them.
analyze, paraphrase, deduce
Answer: paraphrase
17. Often, problems of reasoning can be solved by the use of a(n) _____.
deduction, induction, matrix
Answer: matrix
18. Diagramming involves laying out an argument in _____.
one-dimensional spatial relations, two-dimensional spatial relations, three-dimensional spatial relations
Answer: two-dimensional spatial relations
19. Retrograde analysis involves reasoning from what now exists to consider what would be the case in the _____.
past, future, present
Answer: past
20. Problems of reasoning are interesting and effective ways to _____.
develop reasoning skills, pass the time, drive you crazy
Answer: develop reasoning skills