

## English Logic Examination — Sample Questions

The questions on this test are designed to examine logical proficiency. The following concepts are important.

**Deductive arguments:** The conclusion of the argument was part of the meaning of the initial statements, which are called the *premisses*. The premisses are also sometimes called the assumptions.

*For example:* All exams are difficult; This is an exam. Therefore, this is difficult.

**Inductive arguments:** The conclusion of the argument goes beyond the initial statements, normally by being more general. The initial statements are the *evidence* for the conclusion.

*For example:* Every exam I have taken was difficult. Therefore all exams are probably difficult.

**Valid arguments:** A deductive argument is valid if there are no mistakes in the deduction, even if the premisses are wrong.

**Explicit/Implicit:** Something is explicit if the passage says it. Something is implicit if the passage does not actually say it, but assumes that the reader will work it out.

The following questions concern the arguments of the passages. Some ask about the content of the passage, others about the relationship of the content of the passage to other ideas and arguments specified in the question.

### Text

All students of business are familiar with the Adam Smith division of labour and how it drove the industrial revolution in the western world and, in turn, led to the mass production methods pioneered by the car industry in the early 20th century. How did this change lead to a revolution?

First, each worker does a single task repeatedly, and this means that he gets a lot of practice with that task. If someone practises a task a lot, he becomes very skilled at that task, and a skilled worker does the task quickly and accurately. A worker who performs all of the steps involved in making an item gets less practice on each of the individual steps, and thus is less skilled than a specialist. Therefore, on a production line, each step is performed better than it is by an individual craftsman.

Second, on a production line, the factory can be kept working twenty four hours a day, on a shift system, whereas an individual craftsman needs to sleep.

Finally, a new worker can be trained to perform a single task effectively much more quickly than he can be trained to create the whole item. This makes the factory more flexible and able to respond quickly to changes in demand and market conditions.

Therefore, no workshop based on individual craftsmen can ever compete with a factory organised as a production line.

### Finding Arguments

#### Question 1

Does the passage make the following claims?

a) A worker who does a single task repeatedly becomes very skilled at that task.

A: Yes, explicitly

B: Yes, implicitly

C: No

#### Question 2

What roles do the following claims play in the passage?

a) A new worker can be trained to perform a single task effectively much more quickly than he can be trained to create the whole item.

A: Premiss                      B: Evidence                      C: Conclusion                      D: No Role

### Question 3

Which of the following statements is the best statement of the second premiss of the argument in the second paragraph?

A: An individual craftsman is less skilled than a worker on a production line.

B: An individual craftsman is less skilled at each individual step than a worker on a production line.

C: An individual craftsman gets less practice than a worker on a production line.

D: An individual craftsman gets less practice at each individual step than a worker on a production line.

E: The more practice a worker gets, the better.

### Question 4

a) Does the second paragraph of the passage contain a complete argument, and if so, what kind?

A: Yes, Deductive                      B: Yes, Inductive                      C: No

## Analysing Arguments

The following questions ask about the relationship between the content of the passage and ideas that may not be included in it.

### Question 6

Which of the following statements could be added to the passage to most strengthen the overall argument? Assume that each statement is true.

A: Craftsmen make old-fashioned objects.

B: Today, only craftsmen who are subsidised by the state can make a living.

C: It costs much less to produce an item on a production line than in a craftsman's workshop.

D: The capital costs of a production line are much higher than those of a workshop.

E: None of the above.

### Question 8

Which of the following statements need to be added to the fourth paragraph to make it a valid argument?

a) A flexible workplace must be able to add new workers quickly.

b) It is not possible to hire new workers who are already trained.

c) A flexible workplace must be able to fire workers as necessary.

d) A worker must have been trained before he can start work.

e) Flexible factories can maximise profits.

A: a, c, d

B: b, d, e

C: a, b, d

D: a, b, c, d

E: Already valid

## Constructing Arguments

### Question 10

The following sentences express an argument. Which order of the sentences makes the argument clearest?

- a) Goods produced in a factory are cheaper than those produced in a workshop.
- b) The materials to produce goods cost the same whatever the production method.
- c) There are two main costs in production: materials and labour.
- d) Less-skilled workers cost less than skilled workers.
- e) A worker on a production line is, overall, less skilled than a craftsman in a workshop.

A: a,c,d,b,e

B: c,b,d,e,a

C: d,e,c,b,a

D: b,c,e,d,a

E: d,e,a,b,c

### Question 13

Which of the following conjunctions can *NOT* be inserted into the following sentence?

“Workers on a production line do the same job many times a day, \_\_\_\_\_ they become very skilled at it.”

A: because

B: so

C: therefore

D: thus

E: Any can be inserted

### Question 15

The following sentences can form an argument. Some of the sentences may be irrelevant, or they may all be necessary. Select the smallest number that forms a deductively valid argument.

- A: Items produced in workshops are more expensive than equivalent items produced in factories.
- B: Craftsmen produce more individual pieces, with character.
- C: Consumers always buy the cheapest item.
- D: Consumers have their own preferences, which may be more important than cost.
- E: Workshops cannot compete with factories if they produce the same goods.
- F: Consumers will not buy items produced in workshops.