

GMAT 2025 Exam Changes Verbal Reasoning

Section: GMAT Verbal Reasoning Exams • Total Questions: 10 • Format: Verified Q&A

1. In order to evaluate the potential effectiveness of the psychologist's recommendation it would be most helpful to know which of the following?

Psychologist: Confirmation bias is a universal human tendency to notice evidence for what we already believe and to ignore evidence that contradicts our beliefs. To prevent this natural bias from leading to unwise judgments, people should seek out evidence contrary to their opinions and try to create arguments for alternative viewpoints based on this evidence.

- (A) Whether most people seek out evidence contrary to their opinions and try to create arguments for alternative viewpoints based on this evidence
 - (B) What causes people to notice evidence for what they already believe and to ignore evidence that contradicts their beliefs
 - (C) How often confirmation bias leads certain people to make unwise judgments
 - (D) How able, on average, people are to recognize when evidence is contrary to their opinions
 - (E) The techniques by which people may effectively find evidence contrary to their opinions and create arguments based on that evidence
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2. The passage claims that RNA interference could lead to TKS becoming a viable source of rubber if which of the following occurred?

No synthetic rubber yet matches natural rubber's resilience and strength. Moreover, synthetic rubber's price is tied to that of oil, from which it is made. Trees traditionally used for rubber, though, grow slowly and must be spaced widely or risk leaf blight, making it extremely difficult to increase production. Thus, a smaller rubber-producing leaf plant has appeal. One possibility is guayule, a desert shrub that produces rubber free of allergenic proteins that is useful in such products as rubber gloves. Desert plants, however, mature slowly—guayule takes two years. Another promising rubber source is Taraxacum kok-saghyz (TKS), a Russian dandelion, a robust, fast-growing plant that can be pulled up for processing and resown easily, potentially yielding two harvests a year. To make TKS usable, German scientist Christian Schulze Gronover is investigating the enzyme, polyphenol oxidase (PPO), that makes TKS's rubber sap coagulate. Coagulation benefits the plant; that's why rubber exists: it evolved to gum up herbivorous insects' mouths. Human users, however, want to delay coagulation to facilitate rubber extraction, so Schulze Gronover developed a technique called RNA interference. This intercepts and destroys the molecular messengers carrying instructions from the PPO gene to make the enzyme. Ultimately, if this approach can be combined with bioengineering leading to higher-rubber-yielding TKS plants, the rubber industry's fortunes will no longer be so closely tied to the price of oil.

- (A) TKS is determined to be free of allergenic proteins.
- (B) The price of the oil from which synthetic rubber is made increases significantly from the time the passage was written.
- (C) It is confirmed that rubber from TKS has a more regular structure than that of synthetic rubber.
- (D) TKS plants are developed that produce more rubber than such plants were able to produce at the time the passage was written.
- (E) Land that has been used for growing trees traditionally used for rubber can be developed to be suitable for planting and harvesting TKS at least twice a year.

3. Which of the following statements is NOT indicated by the passage?

Addressing inequities that result from interactions between economic activity and large-scale ecological processes requires a theory of justice that takes into account how those interactions affect relative social position—the distribution of benefits and burdens in a society. For theorist John Rawls, the evaluation of relative social position is based on certain "primary goods"—consisting of rights and liberties, powers and opportunities, and income and wealth. In contrast, Martha Nussbaum bases this evaluation on central human functional capabilities, or conditions that make it possible for people to achieve things, such as "being able to have good health" and "being able to move freely from place to place." While some of Nussbaum's "capabilities" address the same "goods" that concern Rawls, income and wealth play a less central role in her theory. A person's capabilities, Nussbaum argues, are what indicate whether circumstances will allow that person to translate the things he or she has into actual achievements. Nussbaum's approach rightly suggests that identifying injustice in the distribution of benefits and harms that result from human interactions with the environment ultimately requires assessing how environmental conditions affect people's capacities. Such a theory of justice would certainly help societies as they face the real conflict between protecting environmental conditions necessary for basic capabilities and engaging in certain kinds of economic productivity.

- (A) Those who develop theories of justice disagree about the extent to which economic activity affects ecological processes.
- (B) Economic productivity can result in environmental conditions that interfere with some central human functional capabilities.
- (C) Both Rawls and Nussbaum address the question of social position in their theories of justice.
- (D) Capabilities can be defined as underlying factors that enable achievements.
- (E) Consideration of how economic activity and ecological processes affect the distribution of benefits and burdens in a society is necessary if environmental inequities are to be addressed.

4. Which of the following would, if true, most help to account for the plan's failure to achieve the desired results?

For decades, government agencies in Country Y have been trying to reduce the population's consumption of salt. In the 1980s, the government issued consumer guidelines including advice against excess salt and shortly thereafter called on the food industry to voluntarily reduce the relatively high levels of salt in processed foods, which the food industry did to some extent. However, data from a 2008 national study showed that men were, on average, consuming 45 percent more salt than men did in the early 1970s, and women, 69 percent more.

- (A) The population increased significantly between the 1980s and 2008.
- (B) Makers of processed foods have created several new products since the 1980s.
- (C) In 2008, processed foods were a significantly higher percentage of people's daily food consumption than in the 1980s.
- (D) In 2008, more people were aware of the dangers of consuming excess salt than prior to the 1980s.
- (E) On average, the consumption of excess salt has more adverse effects on men's health than it has on women's health.

5. Information in the passage indicates that if adult hosts and juvenile hosts of the same species had the same surface area, which of the following would most likely also be true?

Host age is a key factor in host-parasite relationships because it potentially affects infestation levels, parasite-induced mortality, and parasite distribution. Researchers tested two hypotheses about infestation pattern and survival under parasitism by arachnids (ticks and mites) in relation to the age of host animals (gerbils). The parasite recruitment hypothesis assumes that parasites are recruited more quickly than they die and thus suggests that adult hosts will show higher infestation levels than juveniles because adults have more time to accumulate parasites. The parasite mortality hypothesis assumes that parasites die more quickly than they are recruited and thus suggests that adults will show lower infestation levels because of an acquired immune response. As the negative effects of parasites on hosts are often density-dependent, the researchers expected that, in testing respectively the first and the second hypothesis, age-related differences in infestation might translate into lower or higher survival under parasitism of adults. However, they found no age-related differences in infestation and distribution among host individuals after adjusting the parasite numbers to the host's surface area: parasites were more abundant on adults than on smaller juveniles, but not more dense. Nevertheless, the survival probability for parasitized juveniles was lower than for nonparasitized juveniles, whereas the survival probability for adults was not affected by parasites. Researchers also found no effect of parasite infestation on host body mass. This may be due to food compensation by parasitized juveniles through foraging for longer periods, suggesting that the lower survival of parasitized juveniles may result from higher exposure to predators. Perhaps the processes of parasite recruitment and parasite mortality depend on host age but operate in opposite directions and thus the two processes cancel each other. For example, the tendency of adult wood mice to accumulate more nematodes than juvenile wood mice counters the better ability of adults to mount an immune response. Or perhaps factors other than the level of host exposure, immune response, and parasite-induced host mortality influence processes of specific parasite recruitment and mortality. For instance, host-age-biased flea levels fluctuate between juvenile-biased and adult-biased levels, perhaps as a function of soil temperature.

- (A) The adult hosts, on average, would have more parasites than the juvenile hosts.
- (B) The adult hosts would, on average, have fewer parasites than the juvenile hosts.
- (C) The adult hosts, on average, would have approximately the same number of parasites as the juvenile hosts.
- (D) The adult hosts, on average, would be less likely to survive than the juvenile hosts.
- (E) The adult hosts, on average, would be more likely to survive than the juvenile hosts.

6. The primary purpose of the passage is to

Researchers studying memory and brand names prepared four versions of a camera advertisement, each with identical content emphasizing ease of use, but using a different brand name for the camera. Participants were asked, after viewing one of the advertisements, either to recall the camera name without referring back to its advertisement or to recognize it from among the four possibilities: Monit (classified as a nonword name), Parade, Simplicity, and Ultimate. Participants recognized Monit better than any of the word names, the converse of the pattern for recall. One might expect, as the researchers did, that among word names, the ones that are at least indirectly relevant to the camera's attributes would be recalled better than an irrelevant one. Yet Parade (classified as irrelevant by the researchers) was both recognized and recalled better by participants than either of the other two word names, Simplicity and Ultimate. Recognition and recall were better for Simplicity, related to an advertised attribute, than for Ultimate. One explanation for these findings is that Parade is not entirely irrelevant to cameras, as many consumers take cameras to parades. Although that association refers to the imagined consumption experience, rather than to the product's attributes, it may have influenced the results.

- (A) describe a study of the kinds of words that are memorable as brand names
 - (B) explain why brand-name recognition differs from brand-name recall in the context of advertising
 - (C) determine which of four possibilities is the best brand name for a new camera
 - (D) illustrate the different methods employed in marketing a type of product
 - (E) provide a critical analysis of a study of memory and brand names
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7. The argument is most vulnerable to criticism on grounds that it

- (A) overlooks the possibility that people who develop back pain and do not use a Backease cushion can readily find an effective alternative
 - (B) overlooks the possibility that some of the people surveyed use a Backease cushion for reasons other than the alleviation of back pain, such as helping them to relax
 - (C) overlooks the possibility that among the 30 percent who did not experience a significant reduction or complete elimination of their back pain, some experienced a moderate improvement
 - (D) relies solely on personal reports rather than on reasoning
 - (E) groups together those people who experienced a complete elimination of back pain with those who experienced only a significant reduction
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8. Which of the following, if true, most helps to resolve the discrepancy between precipitation and flooding in Verenia?

Verenia is a remote, undeveloped upland area whose streams and rivers are neither dammed nor used for crop irrigation. Measurement of water flow in those streams and rivers shows a substantial increase over the last 50 years, indicating an increase in precipitation. However, even though rivers in the area are extremely prone to flooding, there has been no comparable increase in either the frequency or the severity of flooding there.

- (A) Nearly all of the increase in precipitation in Verenia has occurred in the hottest and driest months of the year.
 - (B) After descending from Verenia, the rivers flow into a region in which crop irrigation has increased significantly over the last 50 years.
 - (C) Many scientists are predicting that the increase in precipitation in Verenia will cease.
 - (D) Because Verenia has few inhabitants, flooding there seldom leads to loss of human life.
 - (E) Very few of the streams and rivers in Verenia are suitable for damming.
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9. In evaluating the psychologist's recommendation and its rationale, which of the following would be most useful to know?

Recent research has confirmed that deliberately attempting to concentrate does not suffice to filter out irrelevant information. In the study, subjects given a complex problem to solve became more engaged in the task as its visual demands increased. Therefore, in order to improve concentration in children while they are in school, educators should teach concentration techniques, and also include more illustrative visual material in subject textbooks.

- (A) What types of subject matter challenge schoolchildren's powers of concentration
 - (B) Whether the results of the study can be applied to children's reading of a textbook
 - (C) Whether the lessons contained in children's textbooks can be adequately conveyed by means of pictures
 - (D) What percentage of the subjects in the study succeeded in solving the complex problem
 - (E) Whether the previously taught concentration techniques actually increased schoolchildren's concentration
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10. Which of the following, if true, most strengthens the argument?

In the past, every 10 percent increase in cigarette prices in the country of Coponia has decreased per capita sales of cigarettes by 4 percent. Coponia is about to raise taxes on cigarettes by 9 cents per pack. The average price of cigarettes in Coponia is, and has been for more than a year, 90 cents per pack. So the tax hike stands a good chance of reducing per capita sales of cigarettes by about 4 percent.

- (A) In the past, when cigarette prices have dropped temporarily in Coponia, the sales of cigarettes have not always risen.
- (B) Profit margins on cigarettes for manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers are so low at present that future reductions in the profit margins on a pack of cigarettes are out of the question.
- (C) Cigarette manufacturers in Coponia had expected the upcoming increase in the cigarette tax to be no more than 7 percent.
- (D) At present, the price of a pack of cigarettes in Coponia includes taxes that amount to less than 10 percent of the total selling price.
- (E) Some of the revenues from the tax increase will be used to compensate public health-care agencies for the expenses they incur in treating smoking-related illnesses.