GMAT Exam Changes 2025 Verbal Reasoning March 2025

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

1. Which of the following, if true, would most contribute to strengthening the researcher's explanation?

> *The city of Portmund has a large taxi industry. Generally, the availability of taxis tends to increase at times when the demand for their service is higher. But according to a survey of driver hours and revenues, when demand for taxis is highest, the number of taxis in service tends to be far below its peak. One researcher has suggested that this is in part because many taxi drivers choose not to work when rain or snow makes for hazardous road conditions.*

(A) A majority of Portmund businesses shut down during heavy snowstorms.
(B) Most Portmund taxi drivers own their vehicles.
(C) Portmund residents who would ordinarily drive tend to prefer transportation by taxi during heavy snowstorms.
(D) Portmund's average annual number of rainy and snowy days is higher than the national average.
(E) At most ×, the most common destination for Portmund taxi passengers is the local airport.

2. The passage suggests that a hybrid approach to product development

> *Agile and Waterfall are two commonly used methodologies for product development that differ significantly. Agile methodology focuses on delivering the product in small chunks instead of all at once, allowing for regular feedback and adjustment. On the other hand, Waterfall uses a sequential approach in which each step in the process must be completed before moving on. While Waterfall requires extensive documentation before development can begin, Agile values working software over comprehensive documentation. The former is more appropriate for projects that require a structured and predictable approach, and the latter is better suited for projects where change and flexibility are necessary. However, in today's fast-paced business world, a combination of both methods has proven to be successful for many companies. A hybrid approach combines elements of both, facilitating a more flexible development process while maintaining a level of structure and planning. It balances the predictability of Waterfall with the adaptability of Agile. For instance, the project manager following a Waterfall approach can focus on creating a detailed plan for the project while the development team can have the flexibility to adjust and adapt as they work using Agile methodology. By combining Agile and Waterfall methodologies, companies can take advantage of the benefits of both without sacrificing productivity or quality.*

(A) is the most successful approach for all companies and projects
(B) reduces the amount of documentation required to begin the project
(C) provides greater flexibility than either of the two methodologies alone
(D) can help reduce documentation and paperwork required for project planning
(E) allows companies to deliver high-quality products in a timely and efficient manner

3. In the context of the passage, the first paragraph serves primarily to

> *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) outline in brief the passage author's argument regarding certain inequities and theories of justice

(B) highlight significant differences between two theories of justice in terms of their relevance for addressing certain inequities

(C) anticipate challenges to the conclusion reached at the end of the second paragraph

(D) raise questions about how effectively an existing theory of justice has addressed certain inequities

(E) respond to opposing views that call into question the passage author's main conclusion

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4. According to the passage, part of the evidence that scrub jays can bind information is that they

> *The term episodic memory was introduced by Tulving to refer to what he considered a uniquely human capacity, the ability to recollect specific past events, to travel back into the past in one's own mind, as distinct from the capacity simply to use information acquired through past experiences. Subsequently, Clayton et al. developed criteria to test for episodic memory in animals. According to these criteria, episodic memories are not of individual bits of information; they involve multiple components of a single event bound together. Clayton sought to examine evidence of scrub jays' accurate memory of what, where, and when information and their binding of this information. In the wild, these birds store food for retrieval later during periods of food scarcity. Clayton's experiment required jays to remember the type, location, and freshness of stored food based on a unique learning event. Crickets were stored in one location and peanuts in another. Jays prefer crickets, but crickets degrade more quickly. Clayton's birds switched their preference from crickets to peanuts once the food had been stored for a certain length of time, showing that they retain information about the what, the where, and the when. Such experiments cannot, however, reveal whether the birds were reexperiencing the past when retrieving the information. Clayton acknowledged this by using the term episodic-like memory.*

(A) showed by their behavior that they were reexperiencing the past

(B) used information acquired through past experiences

(C) assessed the freshness of food that had been stored by other jays

(D) remembered what kind of food was stored in a particular location

(E) recollected single bits of information about sources of food

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5. Assuming that one of the two conclusions cited above is correct, which of the following, if discovered at the site, would most help determine which is the correct one?

> *Archaeologists found a large forest mound that showed evidence of use by an ancient society about 1,000 years ago, including compacted soil indicating trails or roads, and small copper bells and jewelry in test excavations. Some of the archaeologists concluded that the mound was built and regularly used by members of the society as part of a permanent village, something they were known to have done at nearby sites. Others concluded that the mound was a natural feature visited intermittently for rituals.*

(A) Residues of human food at the top of the mound

(B) Evidence that the copper bells were originally attached to clothing items

(C) Fragments of several large and strong baskets dating from around a thousand years ago

(D) Traces of hearths on the mound showing sustained use for baking around a thousand years ago

(E) One-thousand-year-old trails connecting the mound to sites several kilometers away known to have been permanent villages

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6. The passage is primarily concerned with

> *In the past, contamination has been a greater problem in products made from recycled materials than in similar products not made from recycled materials. To deal with the problem, the recycling industry, with help from local governments, has set up materials recovery facilities (MRFs), whose purpose is to separate contaminated, unusable materials from relatively high-quality raw material that is useful for making recycled products. However, the cost of this processing step, which involves use of labor-intensive sorting systems, has far exceeded what environmental policy makers originally anticipated. Studies indicate that the total cost of collecting, transporting, and processing recyclable materials at an MRF is generally $150 to $200 per ton, while the average cost of collecting, transporting, and disposing of the same materials without recycling them is $100 to $125 per ton. The only material processed and sold by recycling programs that is clearly profitable is aluminum, which has a relatively high market value. Since prices paid on the market for most other materials processed at MRFs make it impossible to run a processing business without covering costs some other way, MRF operators must charge local governments for the service of assuring that recyclables are indeed reused rather than discarded. This problem could be alleviated by stricter government regulations requiring industry to use recycled materials, since demand presumably would increase as a result and market values of materials would rise accordingly.*

(A) countering a criticism

(B) discussing a distinction

(C) questioning an underlying assumption of a policy

(D) explaining certain implications of a practice

(E) advocating that a certain regulation be rescinded

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7. Which of the following would, if true, most help to justify the executive's prediction?

> *Television executive: About 30 percent of surveyed adults say they would regularly watch a news program featuring serious public policy analyses, if the XYZ television network offered such a program. But far fewer than 30 percent of adults watch any of XYZ's current news shows, and the audience for a public-policy analysis news show would probably be far smaller than for XYZ's other shows.*

(A) Most people who claim to be interested in serious analyses of public policy avoid taking convenient opportunities to read, listen to, or view such analyses.

(B) The total number of adults responding to the survey was smaller than the audience for any of XYZ's current news shows.

(C) Many adults have expressed little or no interest in watching news programs featuring serious analyses of public policy.

(D) Most people who might regularly watch a television show because of its content would stop watching it if they found it unappealing.

(E) No television network competing with the XYZ network currently has much programming that features serious analyses of public policy.

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8. Which of the following is an assumption the park manager's argument requires?

> *Many species of plant-eating megafauna such as mammoths and mastodons died out in North America at the end of the last ice age (roughly 10,000 BC), and some scholars claim that they were eradicated primarily by human hunters who arrived on the continent beginning around 14,000 BC. However, others think that the cause was a concurrent change in plant distribution, generally believed to be due to warming of the planet at the end of the ice age.*

(A) If the invasive plants are not removed from the city's newly acquired parks, they will eventually invade many of the city's older parks.

(B) The city council will not have any more funds next year for eradicating invasive plants in the newly acquired parks than it does this year.

(C) If the invasive plants are eradicated from the city's newly acquired parks this year, no new invasive plants will spread into those parks in future years.

(D) The city council is obligated to allocate funding to a project only if doing so will help the city avoid larger expenses later.

(E) Sooner or later, the city will likely have to allocate funding to eradicate invasive plants in the newly acquired parks.

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9. A new drug has been developed that, when administered to stroke victims within three hours after the onset of a stroke, increases their chances of making a complete recovery by 50 percent. Yet even though the drug is likely to be approved for widespread use for stroke victims by next year, a dramatic increase in the stroke recovery rate is unlikely for some time, for the simple reason that _____Which of the following most logically completes the argument?

(A) government and private insurance policies will not reimburse patients for drugs that have not been approved for widespread use among its intended beneficiaries

(B) the drug has been approved already for use on people who have suffered heart attacks

(C) in coming years growing numbers of people will be of an age at which the likelihood of suffering a stroke is greatest

(D) another drug being tested for treatment of strokes appears to be effective when given as late as twenty-four hours after the stroke's onset

(E) the symptoms of stroke are typically so subtle that they are rarely recognized as signs of a medical emergency

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10. Which of the following is an assumption on which the investigators' conclusion relies?

> *Investigators tracked vital statistics of a colony of feral (wild) cats, searching for correlations between physical characteristics of the females, such as length and weight, and the number of kittens those females gave birth to. On average, the shorter, slightly heavier females tended to have more kittens. Investigators concluded that if this trend continues, in two hundred years the average female cat in the colony would be approximately 2 millimeters shorter and 70 grams heavier.*

(A) Birth and death rates in the colony will not change significantly over the next two hundred years.

(B) Female cats in the colony that are shorter than average also tend to be slightly heavier than average.

(C) Kittens born to the shorter, slightly heavier mothers in the colony are not less likely than average to survive to adulthood.

(D) Average length and weight of male cats in the colony will not change over the next two hundred years.

(E) In the colony, female cats that have more kittens than average also live longer than average.