



Drawing a Conclusion

1. It has long been thought that birds are much less intelligent than humans and apes. But now it seems that some species of birds have the same kind of thinking skills as apes. Crows can create and use tools and are socially sophisticated when finding and protecting food. So how can a bird with a walnut-size brain be capable of such achievements? The answer is that both crows and apes have much bigger brains than you would expect from the size of their bodies. The same pattern is found in humans, parrots and chimps - all intelligent animals.

Which one of the following can be drawn as a conclusion from the above passage?

- A Apes are not as similar to humans as had been thought.
- B Crows are more intelligent than other species of birds.
- C Animals that cannot create tools are not intelligent.
- D Relative brain size is a better indicator of intelligence than absolute brain size.
- E It could be argued that birds are as intelligent as apes.

IMAT Q13 (2011)

2. Child actors tend to become addicted to drink and drugs in later life, usually when they become adults but are not as successful as they were previously. The actors frequently blame their parents, who often manage their children's career and so have a reason to work them hard when they are young and enjoy the wealth their children generate for them. The child actors who avoid this are often the ones who were encouraged to keep up their schooling and explore other career options.

Which one of the following can be drawn as a conclusion from the above passage?

- A Child actors should have other interests that allow for other career opportunities.
- B Drug abuse is common in the entertainment industry.
- C Young actors who continue to work live happy, healthy lives.
- D Parents should not be allowed to manage the careers of their children.
- E There are fewer jobs available for adult actors.

IMAT Q22 (2012)



3. In North America in the 1800s, arguments were often settled by gunfights, in which two people stood face to face a distance apart and tried to shoot one another. Recent experiments on human response times have shown that people act more quickly when responding to an action than when they are the first to move. This supports the view that our brain uses different routes in our nervous system to send messages for intentional and reactive movements.

Which one of the following can be drawn as a conclusion from the above passage?

- A Scientific experiments produce interesting findings.
- B Gunfighters are best advised to wait for their opponents to move to fire.
- C Gunfighters who wait for their opponent to move first would always win.
- D Brains cannot control our reactive movements.
- E Humans can be trained to react more quickly.

IMAT Q21 (2011)

4. If more workers worked for only four days each week there would be fewer commuters, and therefore less traffic congestion and less pollution. Also, fewer people would be unemployed because there would be more work to go around. There is evidence that part-time workers are absent from work less often than full-time workers, so a person working a four-day week would be more productive. Less work means less pressure, which means less stress and people would be happier.

Which one of the following can be drawn as a conclusion from the above passage?

- A People choosing to work a four-day week would have to take a 20% pay cut.
- B There would be less pressure on the health services if most workers were on a four-day week.
- C The economy would be more competitive if people worked more productively.
- D The government should enforce a four-day working week.
- E There would be many benefits to working a four-day week.

IMAT Q25 (2011)



Drawing a Conclusion

5.

Many people argue that the many government programmes intended to increase road safety have caused a steady decline in the number of accidents on our roads. However, some observers report that the real number of accidents may be much higher than is shown in the official records as many accidents are not reported by drivers. They also say that during the time when accident figures have decreased, the number of people going to hospitals because of road accidents has stayed constant.

Which one of the following can be drawn as a conclusion from the above passage?

- A Road safety has improved greatly in recent years.
- B Drivers should be required to report all accidents that occur on the road.
- C Positive views about continually improving road safety may not be supported by what actually happens.
- D Government programmes have been unsuccessful in reducing the number of accidents.
- E Hospital admissions are a good way of measuring changes in the number of accidents on our roads.



IMAT Q1 (2012)

6.

Nicotine chewing gum is already available in chemists. Nicotine is an addictive drug, but by itself it causes little, if any, harm. Unlike other addictive substances it does not reduce the brain's performance, make people lazy, anti-social, or have more accidents. But until recently nicotine has been taken only in the form of tobacco, which also contains cancer-causing chemicals and deadly gases that kill one third of the people who smoke it. The chewing gum does not contain these chemicals, and is not dangerous in any other way.

Which one of the following is a conclusion which can be drawn from the above passage?

- A Nicotine chewing gum should be banned as it is addictive.
- B Nicotine chewing gum is a relatively safe alternative to tobacco for those addicted to nicotine.
- C Tobacco smokers can get rid of their addiction by chewing nicotine gum.
- D Nicotine chewing gum will make nicotine addiction more common by removing some of its risks.
- E Tobacco companies should put money into the manufacture and marketing of nicotine chewing gum.

IMAT Q3 (2012)



Drawing a Conclusion

7. Ten years ago in many European cities, offices typically had spaces for six bicycles, half of which were never used and spaces for 50 cars which were always full. Today, there are fewer car spaces and many more spaces for bicycles which are always full. This change to cycling may seem strange to some as cycling is more effort. Possible causes are rising fuel prices, the introduction of higher parking charges for drivers in major cities, increasing awareness of environmental issues, expensive public transport and traffic jams.

Which one of the following can be drawn as a conclusion from the above passage?

- A Using a bicycle is now the most popular way of travelling to work.
- B Travellers are now much more environmentally aware than they were 10 years ago.
- C People will not cycle to work unless employers provide more cycle spaces on site.
- D Travellers are now less happy to pay the costs of car use than they were ten years ago.
- E More people cycle to work now than 10 years ago.



IMAT Q10 (2012)

8. Roughly 60 percent of today's world population is bilingual or multilingual and it is argued that this is a new phenomenon. Today Spanish and Arabic are widely spoken whilst English is the world's most commonly spoken and written language. However, 500 years ago it was Latin which was the main language of education, religion, commerce and government in the Western World despite this not being most people's first language. In the 17th century, French and Italian gained in importance as languages of international trade.

Which one of the following can be drawn as a conclusion of the above passage?

- A English will one day be replaced as the main language of communication.
- B Speaking another language has always been an important practical consideration.
- C The majority of bilingual or multilingual people speak English.
- D The number of bilingual or multilingual people in the world will continue to grow.
- E English is the most common world language today because of the spread of the internet.

IMAT Q21 (2012)



Drawing a Conclusion

9. One in four deaths caused by road accidents involving commercial vehicles is caused by the driver falling asleep at the wheel. The problem even affects police men and women, who are now more likely to die due to driving when tired than by physical attacks. Evidence at the scene (such as tyre marks) can tell investigators how quickly the car driver braked: late braking would indicate lack of concentration which might be caused by tiredness. The problem with this evidence is that it is not conclusive, whereas conclusive evidence can be offered for other offences such as drink driving.

Which one of the following can be drawn as a conclusion of the passage above?

- A Accidents caused by drivers falling asleep at the wheel are a greater problem than drink driving.
- B Commercial vehicle drivers and the police are more prone to falling asleep at the wheel because of the long hours they work.
- C The number of hours per day that commercial drivers should be allowed to drive should be reduced.
- D It will not be as easy to prosecute drivers for falling asleep at the wheel as it is for drink driving.
- E It would be unfair to prosecute people for falling asleep at the wheel.

IMAT Q16 (2013)

10. A significant social trend in the 20th century was for people to move away from their place of birth in order to access education and work. This gave individuals more opportunities and helped the economy by producing mobility within the workforce. The negative side of this is now being felt as more and more elderly people face the problems of old age without family members nearby to care for them. This has negative effects on the economy as well as on the individual, as more and more state funding for care is needed.

Which one of the following could be drawn as a conclusion of the above passage?

- A The benefits of a mobile workforce have to be compared with the costs to elderly people and the economy.
- B Elderly people are expecting the state to provide care for them rather than relying on their children.
- C People should try to find education and work close to their place of birth.
- D The state should provide care for elderly people to make mobility of the workforce possible.
- E People should make caring for their elderly parents a priority over choice of work opportunities.

IMAT Q1 (2013)



11.

Many people believe that foreign travel broadens the mind and that there is some inherent benefit in spending some time in a culture different from your own. Many students are taking 'gap' years where they spend time in another country. Whilst this may offer some benefits in terms of confidence and independence, it is wrong to assume that foreign travel alone can provide this. Global travel can have negative impacts on local cultures and the environment. Home country based 'gap' projects are often seen as unglamorous but the benefit of working with different groups and cultures within our own society can be equally rewarding.

Which one of the following is the main conclusion of the above passage?

- A Foreign gap year projects must have an element of community work for them to be worthwhile.
- B Foreign travel is not the only way to gain confidence and independence.
- C Projects within our own society can be as rewarding as foreign travel.
- D There is inherent benefit in spending some time abroad.
- E It is important that gap year students consider the impact of their travel on the communities they work in.

IMAT Q4 (2013)

12.

A study on identical twins concluded that genes contribute roughly half of the attributes we need to be happy. People often find such studies scary, seeing something sinister about us being mere puppets of our biology. However, put in non-scientific terms, it sounds like common sense. Parents talk about how their children had different personality traits from a very young age. Perhaps it's nicer to think this is caused by something 'fluffy' like a soul – but even if that were true, why is that more reassuring than the thought that genes are responsible? Either way, you're born as you are.

Which one of the following statements is best supported as the conclusion of the passage above?

- A Roughly half of what we need to be happy is decided by our genetic make up.
- B We may as well accept the idea that our potential for happiness in life is to some extent decided at birth.
- C Whether or not you are happy in life is either determined by your soul or your genes.
- D Whether or not you are happy in life is not something over which you yourself have any control.
- E The person you are at birth is the person you will be throughout your life.

IMAT Q24 (2013)



13. One of the foolish but persisting fantasies of the Olympic movement is that the Games are, or were, or will be, or even ought to be, completely free of politics. It is difficult to understand how this foolish belief continues, but the facts are these: the nations lining up to host the games are motivated not by unattainable ideals but by a legitimate desire to promote the excellence of their citizens; and the nations who have boycotted the games in the past have done so to make genuine political points.

Which one of the following is a conclusion which can be drawn from the above passage?

- A Although everyone knows the Olympics are caught up in politics, no one is brave enough to admit it.
- B National interests are ruining the Olympics.
- C Just because the Olympic games have been politicised, it doesn't mean that they should be.
- D If some countries use the Olympic movement to further their own ends, they are guilty only of exposing a myth.
- E We should do everything possible to ensure that the Olympics do not become further politicised.

IMAT Q2 (2014)

14. The purpose of an election is to decide what policies are supported by the people. However, in elections the concept of 'tactical voting' is becoming increasingly common. The argument is a simple one:

Party X will never be beaten by party Y but party Z could win with a few extra votes. Therefore, you should transfer your vote from party Y to party Z to make sure that party X is beaten.

This reasoning is perfectly sound if your main objective is to vote a party out. Unfortunately, if you support party Y then there is no guarantee that party Z will support the same principles.

Which one of the following is the conclusion that could best be drawn from the above passage?

- A Elections are often thought of in terms of voting for or against the party in office, rather than as voting for your preferred party.
- B Tactical voting is an important part of the electoral process.
- C Tactical voting will not achieve the purpose of an election.
- D It is important that party X does not win the election.
- E Party X policies are not popular.

IMAT Q3 (2014)



Drawing a Conclusion

15.

If for a number of hours each day you're having experiences on the computer where there are no consequences, that may have an implication for antisocial behaviour. In real life you can't undo something; you can't bring someone back to life once you've stabbed them. On a computer you can play the game again. It may be that for people who spend most of their time playing computer games involving killing others, real bleeding to death has no meaning. Studies of brain activity show that there is less pre-frontal cortex activity in the brains of screen-obsessed teenagers than in the brains of those who spend little time on computer games. The pre-frontal cortex area of the brain is where we process ideas of sequence, consequences and empathy.

Which one of the following can be drawn as a conclusion of the passage above?

- A Brain structure is altered by environmental factors.
- B People who spend a lot of time playing computer games are the main culprits in knife crime.
- C There may be a link between use of computer games and violence.
- D Young people cannot distinguish the difference between fantasy and reality.
- E Computer games should not be available for children under 18 years of age.

IMAT Q22 (2014)

16.

Sports are played either as a means of getting exercise or as a competition with an opponent. Some sports, such as football, involve a large amount of running and some people are more motivated to run when it is part of a game. Other sports, such as pool, do not involve much physical activity and so it is unlikely that they would be played for the exercise.

Which one of the following conclusions is best supported by the passage above?

- A Football is a better sporting activity than pool.
- B There is no point in running as a hobby, since football is more fun.
- C It is easier to exercise when it is as part of another activity, such as playing sport.
- D People who play pool are more likely to be interested in the competition than those who play football.
- E Since the main reason for playing sports is to get exercise, pool should not be classified as a sport.

IMAT Q12 (2015)



17.

In 1688 the Irish philosopher William Molyneux asked whether a blind person who regained their vision could recognise by sight an object they had previously only known by touch. Richard Held and Pawan Sinha of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology attempted to answer this question in an experiment with five children in India who had just had successful surgery which gave them their sight for the first time. Within 48 hours of the operation the children were asked to feel a toy block without looking at it. They were then shown two blocks, one of which they had touched. They identified the original block just over half of the time and this is only a little better than guesswork. Recognising touched objects by sight alone improved within days.

Which one of the following can be drawn as a conclusion of the above passage?

- A Using children in experiments such as the one described above is morally wrong.
- B Identifying an object by sight alone which had been touched but not seen previously is learned behaviour and not innate.
- C Identifying an object by sight alone which had been touched but not seen previously is innate behaviour and not learned.
- D Identifying an object by sight alone which had been touched but not seen previously is something which adults do better than children.
- E Identifying an object by sight alone which had been touched but not seen previously is something which children do better than adults.

IMAT Q5 (2016)

18.

E-cigarettes, which provide nicotine without cigarette smoke, have been praised by health campaigners. Research has suggested that success rates for quitting smoking are higher with e-cigarettes than with other methods. However, rather than tackling their nicotine addiction, e-cigarette users have simply replaced one habit with another. It is true that cigarette smoke contains many hazardous compounds, and also that quitting smoking increases life expectancy and reduces the risk of many health problems. But nicotine also has its dangers: it has been associated with a range of conditions that we do not fully understand, and research has yet to establish the long-term effects of nicotine use outside of cigarette smoke.

Which one of the following is a conclusion that can be drawn from the above passage?

- A Using nicotine patches is an ineffective way to give up smoking.
- B Not everyone is able to give up smoking without nicotine replacement.
- C Smoking traditional cigarettes still poses a major risk to health.
- D E-cigarettes are just as harmful as traditional cigarettes.
- E People should not assume e-cigarettes are a safe alternative to traditional cigarettes.

IMAT Q7 (2017)



Drawing a Conclusion

19.

Though relatively few people know it by name, palm oil is found in over fifty per cent of processed supermarket goods, from soaps to snacks. This vegetable oil, which is taken from the fruit of the oil palm tree, causes a great deal of environmental concern. The clearing of tropical forests to grow oil palm plantations threatens the survival of orangutans and other endangered species. The land conversion often happens on carbon rich peat soils in a process which releases significant greenhouse gas emissions. Yet even some environmental organisations warn that alternative vegetable oil crops may require much larger areas of forest to be converted to agricultural land.

Which one of the following is a conclusion that can be drawn from the above passage?

- A A ban on palm oil alone would not solve all of the environmental problems associated with vegetable oil production.
- B If farmers stopped clearing tropical forests for oil palm plantations, endangered orangutan populations would recover.
- C The environmental risks associated with oil palm plantations are not well understood in tropical countries.
- D To produce the most profitable crops, oil palm plantations must be grown on carbon rich peat soils.
- E There is no motivation for manufacturers to stop using palm oil in their products.

IMAT Q8 (2017)

20.

Competition between restaurants is fierce and restaurateurs are trying to gain recognition for the quality of their food. Research from Oxford University might just give them that edge over their competitors. More than a hundred people participated in a series of experiments to see if the taste of food was affected by the cutlery used to eat it. The study found that desserts tasted better when eaten using small spoons. Similarly yoghurt tasted creamier when eaten with a black spoon. Cheese cut with a heavy knife tasted more expensive than cheese cut with a lighter knife.

Which one of the following is a conclusion that can be drawn from the above passage?

- A People choose restaurants only because of the quality of the food.
- B Restaurants should think carefully about what cutlery they use.
- C Restaurants should pay less attention to food presentation.
- D Customers pay attention to the cutlery they are using.
- E Variety of cutlery is more important than quality of food.

IMAT Q3 (2018)



21.

It's better for your children's health to give them a video game to play than to let them watch television. Researchers at Queensland University examined the effects of video gaming and watching television on children between the ages of two and five. They found that the children burned more calories when they were gaming than when they were watching television; higher blood pressure was associated with watching television, but not with video gaming. The scientists believe that the difference comes from two distinct kinds of screen time: passive screen time, where you are simply viewing programmes or films, and active screen time, where you are engaging both your mind and your body.

Which one of the following is the main conclusion of the above argument?

- A Playing video games helps to reduce children's blood pressure.
- B Watching television does not stimulate children's minds.
- C Video gaming engages both the mind and the body.
- D Video gaming is better for children's health than watching television.
- E Children burn more calories when they play video games than when they watch television.

IMAT Q4 (2018)

22.

Sperm whales have the largest brains on the planet, although both humans and dolphins have larger brains relative to their body size. But why should relative brain size be important? If one thinks of a brain as a computer, there is no obvious reason why it must be sized in proportion to the body it lives in. Why for example should a whale need an especially large brain, when a hummingbird – which has complex tasks to perform – manages with a tiny one?

Which one of the following is a conclusion that is supported by the above passage?

- A Brain size and the ability to perform complex tasks are not necessarily related.
- B Hummingbirds and whales have equally complex tasks to perform, despite huge difference in brain size.
- C Dolphins are more intelligent than whales.
- D There is no important difference between a brain and a computer.
- E Whales need larger brains than either dolphins or humans because of their enormous size.

IMAT Q6 (2018)

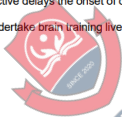


23.

A study involving a brain-training exercise was carried out on more than a thousand adults aged 65 and over, some of whom later developed dementia. Results showed that the benefits of the five-week mental agility course undertaken by some of the adults lasted for at least five years. This led to an improvement in everyday activities such as money management and the ability to do housework. If those with trained brains developed dementia, they did so later than those in the control group. The results also showed that, for those people in the study who developed dementia, after the diagnosis their mental decline occurred faster than for those who had not undertaken the training.

Which one of the following can be drawn as a conclusion from the above passage?

- A People do a decreasing amount of housework as they grow older.
- B It is preferable to have swift mental decline once dementia develops.
- C Older people do not perform mentally challenging tasks unless forced to do so.
- D Keeping the mind active delays the onset of dementia.
- E All over-65s who undertake brain training live for at least five years afterwards.



IMAT Q6 (2019)

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