



Summarising the Main Conclusion

1.

If the Carnival Committee does not follow the new European regulations then it may be impossible to guarantee safety. The probable consequence of this would be a heavy fine, which would severely reduce the carnival fund, and could be disastrous for the committee's finances. Either the committee must meet the safety requirements or the future of the carnival may be under threat.

Which one of the following best expresses the conclusion of this argument?

- A Safety at the carnival has reached dangerously low levels.
- B If the European regulations are not followed the carnival may not survive.
- C Failure to improve safety could result in a heavy fine.
- D A heavy fine could mean financial disaster for the carnival.
- E If the regulations are followed then the carnival will take place again next year.

IMAT Q19 (2011)

2.

The Chief Executive of the Royal Opera House has recently offered 100 seats on any Monday night for £10. Normally these seats can cost up to £175 therefore it represents a considerable saving. However the hopes of the Chief Executive that this will attract a broader audience are likely to be disappointed. It is not the financial costs that put people off opera - it is simply that they do not like it. Many young people spend considerable sums of money going to premier football matches or 'clubbing'. This suggests, therefore, that the problem of attracting a more diverse audience to opera is more a question of culture than economics.

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

- A The 'cheap seats' policy is unlikely to attract a more diverse audience.
- B The intention of the 'cheap seats' policy is that it will attract a broader audience.
- C A considerable amount of money can be saved as a result of this offer.
- D Many young people do not like the idea of going to the opera.
- E Attracting a broader audience for opera is a problem of taste rather than expense.

IMAT Q26 (2012)



Summarising the Main Conclusion

3. A comparison has been made between fast food restaurants and factories. This is not as unrealistic as it might first appear. Fast food is mass-produced, as heavily processed as any other factory product, and restaurant workers have jobs which are just as routine and boring as those in manufacturing. So not only does fast food taste the same everywhere, but all workers involved are on low wages and have little power to improve their conditions.

Which one of the following best expresses the conclusion of this argument?

- A Workers who do routine and boring jobs are often poorly paid.
- B Mass production in factories leads to poor working conditions.
- C It is not unrealistic to compare fast food restaurants with factories.
- D All fast food tastes the same because it is heavily processed.
- E Working in a fast food restaurant is no different from working in a factory.

IMAT Q31 (2011)

4. The general public cannot understand laws and legal documents unless they are written in clear and simple language. Therefore, the traditional style in which laws and legal documents are written must change. Citizens in a democracy must be able to understand what their legal rights and duties are.

Which one of the following best expresses the conclusion of this argument?

- A There must be a change in the style in which laws and legal documents are written.
- B It is necessary in a democracy for citizens to know their legal rights and duties.
- C Many laws and legal documents are written in old-fashioned and complicated language.
- D The general public can fully understand only those laws and documents written in simple language.
- E If citizens can understand laws and legal documents, they will be able to play their proper role in a democracy.

IMAT Q37 (2011)



Summarising the Main Conclusion

5. Modern technology has given us the power to use renewable natural resources faster than they can be replaced. The decline of fish numbers provides one example of the way in which modern technology can rapidly use up a natural resource. Modern fishing ships equipped with fish detecting systems and huge nets can gather up vast quantities of fish quicker than the sea can renew them. Because high technology gives us such harmful powers, we must learn to use the renewable resources of the earth carefully, rather than waste them.

Which one of the following best expresses the main conclusion of the above passage?

- A Modern technology simply takes from the environment and destroys its resources.
- B Fishing is now a serious threat to the world's environment and should cease.
- C Fish need to be carefully protected to prevent them from being destroyed.
- D Most people are unaware of the damaging effects of modern technology.
- E Humans must preserve renewable resources by learning how to use them carefully.



IMAT Q8 (2012)

6. Shower gel is now used much more ~~than soap~~ when people take a shower. This is unfortunate. Shower gel requires much more packaging which means more rubbish. There is also a tendency for people to use more of it when washing in comparison with soap. Therefore more natural resources are consumed in the manufacturing process than would be if people used only soap. So, the trend towards shower gel is bad for the environment. This is because it creates more problems of waste disposal and uses up more resources than soap. We should make people more aware of the environmental impact of such simple decisions.

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

- A The increased popularity of shower gel is bad for the environment.
- B It is unfortunate that shower gel has become more popular than soap.
- C People should be made more aware of the environmental consequences of choosing shower gel.
- D The use of shower gel increases the problems of waste disposal.
- E The manufacture of shower gel is more wasteful of natural resources.

IMAT Q9 (2012)



Summarising the Main Conclusion

7.

Health services should find better ways to take blood pressure readings for patients thought to be suffering from high blood pressure (hypertension). One third of patients thought to have high blood pressure may actually have 'white coat' hypertension, according to a new study. 'White coat' hypertension means that a patient's blood pressure is high at the doctor's surgery, probably due to anxiety, but normal in everyday life. In the study, patients said to have hypertension had their blood pressure measured in a normal environment; more than one third of these patients' blood pressures were in the normal range when they were at home or participating in their usual activities. It is worrying that patients are being treated with drugs with some negative side effects to reduce high blood pressure which they do not actually have.

Which one of the following best expresses the conclusion of the argument above?

- A Two thirds of patients said to have hypertension are being wrongly treated.
- B More effective ways of measuring blood pressure are needed.
- C Health services could save money currently spent on unnecessarily prescribed drugs.
- D Anxiety is the most common cause of high blood pressure.
- E 'White coat' hypertension has no medical significance.

IMAT Q39 (2012)

8.

There is an increasing number of historical or significant buildings in the UK which are said to be 'At Risk'. Without a change in the law most of these buildings are doomed to crumble into the ground. This is because these buildings are no longer structurally sound. The existing strict renovation laws mean that they are too expensive or impractical for private individuals or developers to renovate or repair. There are certainly people out there who would be willing to maintain these buildings if they could use more modern and less expensive techniques and materials. Surely it is better to sacrifice some of the original building's character rather than lose the entire structure.

Which one of the following best expresses the main conclusion of the above argument?

- A There is nothing wrong with changing the character of historic buildings.
- B 'At Risk' buildings need to be renovated according to strict rules.
- C A change in the law is needed if we hope to preserve more 'At Risk' buildings.
- D Existing laws make 'At Risk' buildings too expensive for most developers.
- E Historians can learn more from buildings which have not been modernised by modern developers.

IMAT Q3 (2013)



Summarising the Main Conclusion

9. Ever since Uranus was discovered, astronomers have thought there might be more planets in the Solar System. Because of small deviations in the orbits of Uranus and Neptune – deviations which would occur if another planet existed – some astronomers think there must be an undiscovered planet – Planet X. But these deviations cannot tell us whether Planet X exists, because they would occur if the orbits had been wrongly predicted. Since Uranus and Neptune take many decades to circle the sun, astronomers rely on old data to calculate their orbits. As this is likely to be inaccurate, the calculated orbits are probably wrong, and so Uranus and Neptune will deviate from them even if there is no Planet X.

Which one of the following best expresses the main conclusion of the above argument?

- A The use of old and inaccurate data indicates that Planet X cannot exist.
- B Astronomers are right to think that there must be an undiscovered planet.
- C The deviations in the orbits of Uranus and Neptune cannot tell us whether Planet X exists.
- D The calculations of the orbits of Uranus and Neptune are probably wrong.
- E Uranus and Neptune will deviate from the predicted orbits whether or not Planet X exists.

IMAT Q16 (2013)

10. The low level of literacy among science undergraduates is an issue across all universities. One of the biggest problems is that pupils in school spend more time perfecting their SMS text messaging and emailing skills than they do writing grammatically correct pieces of literature. It is important to get across to undergraduates that good writing matters. Employers take on scientists believing they can communicate their findings fluently and accurately. We need to deliver science graduates with these skills.

Which one of the following best expresses the main conclusion of the above argument?

- A Education is failing those who leave with poor writing skills.
- B Students must be helped to recognise the importance of good literacy skills.
- C Many science graduates are unable to write in a grammatically correct way.
- D Employment often depends on good ability in literacy.
- E Students do not concentrate properly in lessons in school.

IMAT Q18 (2013)



Summarising the Main Conclusion

11. Over 30 years ago, the smallpox virus was eradicated (removed) from the natural environment, but examples of it are still preserved in two laboratories. It is planned, however, to destroy these remaining viruses. Given that this will be the first example of a deliberate destruction of an entire species, we should think again before destroying these viruses. Years ago we thought we had the right to kill as many creatures as we liked, but now we realise we have no such right. Furthermore, we cannot know the future; we cannot justify destroying something that could be of enormous value to us one day, valuable in ways we cannot even think of now. And anyway, what possible harm can captive viruses do to us?

Which one of the following best expresses the main conclusion of the above argument?

- A We cannot justify destroying something which may one day be valuable to us.
- B Captive smallpox viruses are not going to harm us.
- C The deliberate destruction of an entire species should never be allowed.
- D The planned destruction of the smallpox virus should be given more thought.
- E We do not have the right to destroy the smallpox virus.

IMAT Q1 (2014)

12. Despite much opposition to the idea, modern musical trends such as hip-hop have a place in the world of opera. Traditional opera is a powerful musical experience. However, modern musicians should not necessarily stick with the traditional form. Modern musical forms which fuse staged drama, singing and contemporary or ethnic trends in music are also powerful musical experiences. Glydebourne's youth operas 'Misper' and 'Zoe', and its Mozart hiphopera, 'School 4 Lovers', enjoyed critical and box office success and attracted hip-hop audiences. Moving away from the snobbery of tradition gives a much wider audience access to transformative musical experience.

Which one of the following best expresses the main conclusion of the passage?

- A Creating new operatic performances allows more people to access this exciting art form.
- B Contemporary music forms have a place in performances of opera.
- C Musicians are entitled to fuse new forms and old to create exciting musical experiences.
- D Hip-hop is as powerful and dramatic as opera.
- E Contemporary music has a place in the musical world in addition to traditional operatic performances.

IMAT Q8 (2014)



Summarising the Main Conclusion

13.

If the media give publicity to certain types of crime, it may encourage criminals to carry out 'copy cat' offences. If, however, they were forbidden to divulge details of crimes, this would amount to censorship. The freedom of speech of the media is too important to sacrifice, so the media should be free to report crime even if this means some crimes are committed which would not otherwise be committed.

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

- A Publicity about crimes can encourage others to commit similar offences.
- B Censorship of the media would reduce the crime rate.
- C The media should be permitted to report crimes even if other crimes sometimes result from this reporting.
- D The media should not report all the details of a crime.
- E Freedom of speech is a right that is too important to give up.

IMAT Q23 (2014)

14.

Now, it might be thought an amazing coincidence if Earth were the only planet in the galaxy on which intelligent life evolved. If it happened here, the one planet we have studied closely, surely one would expect it to have happened on a lot of other planets in the galaxy – planets we have not yet had the chance to examine. This objection, however, rests on a fallacy: it overlooks what is known as an 'observation selection effect', so it wouldn't be such a coincidence. Whether intelligent life is common or rare, every observer is guaranteed to originate from a place where intelligent life did, in fact, arise. Since only the successes give rise to observers who can wonder about their existence, it would be a mistake to regard our planet as a randomly selected sample from all planets.

Which one of the following best expresses the main conclusion of the above argument?

- A Our planet is not a randomly selected sample from all planets.
- B However common intelligent life is, every observer will certainly originate from a place where intelligent life did, in fact, arise.
- C If life had evolved here on Earth, it would probably have happened on a lot of other planets in the galaxy.
- D There would be no amazing coincidence if we discovered that Earth were the only planet in the galaxy on which intelligent life evolved.
- E It would be an amazing coincidence if Earth were the only planet in the galaxy on which intelligent life evolved.

IMAT Q3 (2015)



Summarising the Main Conclusion

15. Concern about the effects of chemicals upon the environment has led to calls for more research. But we should not wait for further research before we ban some of the chemicals used by industry. If anyone has a good reason to think something is harmful, it should not be used until, or unless, the risk is found to be zero. We know enough about past mistakes to be forewarned. Much of the harm to wildlife and humans is long-term, and the disturbing results we see today reflect the chemical environment 40 years ago. Thousands more chemicals have been released into the environment since then.

Which one of the following most closely matches the reasoning above?

- A People should not be able to adopt children until proper checks have been carried out. Serious consequences may follow if adoptive parents are unsuitable.
- B A suspected terrorist should be arrested at once. Waiting for conclusive evidence in the past has resulted in atrocities that could have been avoided by acting on suspicion, and the threat of terrorism has grown.
- C Some homes for the elderly have been found to give dangerously substandard care. Therefore they should be closed down and the residents found acceptable alternatives.
- D Cyclists should not place too much confidence in the benefits of helmets, because there is no conclusive evidence as yet that helmets prevent serious injuries.
- E Some cars that have passed the annual roadworthiness test would not pass 6 months later. Cars should be tested more than once a year once they pass a certain age.

IMAT Q8 (2015)

16. Although it is sometimes suggested that the congestion caused by the bunching of cars on motorways could be eased by increasing the speed limit to 150 km/hr, such an increase would not be a good thing. An estimated 35 per cent of drivers exceed the speed limit by 20 km/hr and would continue to do so if the limit were raised. Since bunching is caused by speeding drivers trying to pass those who observe the speed limit, raising the limit to 150 km/hr would result in the same amount of congestion, but at an increased speed. Moreover, a higher speed limit would encourage all drivers to drive faster, and thus would increase the existing danger from those who drive too close to the car in front.

Which one of the following best expresses the main conclusion of the above argument?

- A Congestion on motorways is caused by speeding drivers trying to pass those who observe the speed limit.
- B A higher speed limit on motorways would encourage all drivers to drive faster.
- C An increase in the speed limit would increase the existing danger from those drivers who drive too close.
- D Raising the speed limit to 150 km/hr would not reduce congestion on motorways.
- E It would not be a good thing to increase the speed limit to 150 km/hr.

IMAT Q14 (2015)



Summarising the Main Conclusion

17,

Children need to play in order to develop their thinking skills. When children play, they are merely going through scenarios, working out the consequences and implications of actions, puzzling out what might happen – the very same processes that adults have learned to do in their heads, the process more commonly known as 'thinking'. It follows that thinking and playing are really one and the same thing.

Which one of the following best expresses the main conclusion of the above argument?

- A Children need to be taught how to think about the future.
- B Children who do not play will not be good thinkers.
- C Playing and thinking are essentially two forms of the same activity.
- D Children need to be allowed to play in order to develop their thinking skills.
- E Playing is just an early version of abstract thinking and reasoning.

IMAT Q11 (2016)

18

Childhood obesity is still a problem. This is often blamed on the fact that children have easy access to a range of unhealthy foods and increasingly have more money available to them to spend on fattening and sugar-filled foods. A solution seems obvious – raise the prices of all these foods so that parents will have more control over what their children eat and will find it more economical to buy healthy foods. Unfortunately, this is unlikely to work as the problem is also caused by the fact that unhealthy foods tend to be more convenient and that is what many parents consider when deciding what foods to provide. A wider range of 'ready to eat' healthy food options would be a good start to solving the problem of child obesity.

Which one of the following best expresses the main conclusion of the above argument?

- A Parents should have more control over the food that their children eat.
- B The price of unhealthy foods should be raised.
- C There should be more 'ready to eat' healthy meals available.
- D Children have too much access to fattening and sugar-filled foods.
- E Child obesity is still a problem.

IMAT Q17 (2016)



Summarising the Main Conclusion

19. Many children from poor backgrounds would benefit from wearing spectacles but do not have them. Sometimes parents are not aware of their children's poor eyesight, but most often they suffer from financial constraints. The government should provide free glasses to poor children with eyesight problems. A recent study of underprivileged students with poor vision demonstrated that those who were given free glasses enjoyed an improvement in test scores equivalent to almost a year of additional schooling. Using the most conservative estimate of the impact of schooling on salary, this would significantly increase an average school-leaver's annual income and tax contributions, and by far more than the cost of a pair of glasses.

Which one of the following best expresses the main conclusion of the above argument?

- A Exam marking should take into account any disabilities the student might have.
- B Parents should be educated about potential eyesight problems in children.
- C Children from poor backgrounds with bad eyesight should be given additional schooling.
- D The government should help financially with the provision of children's glasses.
- E People's salaries should reflect whether or not they had eyesight problems during school.

IMAT Q18 (2017)

20.

According to the current mainstream scientific view, Near Death Experiences (NDEs) are explicable in purely physiological terms. Specifically, they are caused by cerebral anoxia (oxygen deficiency in brain tissue), which occurs in a dying brain. On the other hand, recent research on hundreds of successfully resuscitated cardiac patients found that only twenty per cent reported NDEs. If NDEs had purely medical causes then most of the patients should have experienced them, since they had all been clinically dead and experienced cerebral anoxia. NDEs therefore do not have purely physiological causes.

Which one of the following best expresses the main conclusion of the above passage?

- A Not all successfully resuscitated cardiac patients have NDEs.
- B Not all clinically dead patients have NDEs.
- C NDEs are caused by oxygen deficiency in the brain.
- D NDEs are not necessarily caused by physical events alone.
- E NDEs are a physical property of the human brain.

IMAT Q7 (2019)