



Applying Principles

1.

Food producers are resisting pressure to reduce still further the levels of salt in food. Although it is proven that salt intake must be reduced by those with hypertension, there is no evidence that reducing salt intake prevents hypertension. So why should we all be deprived of the pleasures of salt in food? We certainly need to identify those with hypertension and give them advice on their salt intake, but why should everyone else be deprived of salt? Food producers are right to resist the pressure.

Which one of the following best illustrates the principle underlying the argument above?

- A Adding fluoride to drinking water has reduced tooth decay, but fluoride is unwelcome to some people. Instead, dentists should advise patients with tooth problems on better tooth care.
- B The requirement to wear seatbelts has reduced deaths in car accidents but was unpopular when first introduced. People eventually accepted such changes even if it has not benefited them personally.
- C Advice to wear sun block to protect the skin from harmful rays is ignored by some people. Those people should be charged for medical treatment for skin cancer.
- D Passive smoking is still a problem for people who share a home with a smoker. The law should be extended to make smoking illegal even in the home.
- E Retailers cannot sell alcohol to people under 18 years, but providing more general advice on alcohol in schools would be better, as it would encourage young people to be self limiting in their consumption of alcohol.

IMAT Q15 (2015)

2.

Undercover police investigators sometimes commit 'crimes' in order to convince the 'real criminals' that they are on the same side as them. Some of these activities have victims, although in the main these are other criminals – rival gang members for example. In committing what are technically offences the officers are preventing many more serious crimes by helping to convict and imprison dangerous criminals who might otherwise remain at liberty. But that is not really the point. A breach of the law is a breach of the law, whoever commits it and for whatever reason. Preventing a crime does not make it right to commit another crime.

Which one of the following is the general principle underlying the above argument?

- A An act is criminal only if it is committed for criminal reasons.
- B Serious crime must be prevented by any reasonable means.
- C The police have a duty to protect law-abiding citizens from violence.
- D There is no such thing as a victimless crime.
- E The end does not justify the means.

IMAT Q18 (2015)



3. What is a clone but a twin? What is genetic engineering or selective breeding but assisted evolution? How often do we hear these trite excuses for man's arrogant interference with natural processes? Too often. It is time to call a halt and consider just what limits need to be placed on the break-neck progress of bio-technology, if 'progress' is even the right word for it. The big question for science should not be 'What's in it for us?' but 'Could this have happened naturally?' And if the answer is 'No' then we should not bring it about just because we have found that we can. If we do we may live a bit longer or grow more food per acre, but we don't know where our meddling will end.

Which one of the following is a principle which underlies the above argument?

- A Nature will have its own way in the long run.
- B Meddling with nature could only ever end in disaster.
- C Science should not progress beyond what is natural.
- D It is time to call a halt on bio-technological advances.
- E Cloning, genetic engineering and selective breeding are not 'progress'.

IMAT Q12 (2016)

4. High profile members of society can raise awareness of worthy causes better than members of the public, because they have their opinions listened to and respected more readily by a larger number of people. Celebrities should not be shy about drawing attention to charities and foundations to which they donate their time and money, because it may encourage other people to do the same.

Which one of the following best illustrates the principle underlying the argument above?

- A People should value their superiors' opinions on all matters because they have been successful in one or more fields.
- B If your boss does not commit any virtuous acts then neither should you.
- C If you can help someone else by donating your disposable time and money, it will help improve society.
- D Directors of companies should encourage their employees to recycle more by visibly doing so themselves.
- E Companies with the most employees should be put under pressure to commit to the most social change.

IMAT Q20 (2016)



5.

Car drivers understandably become very annoyed at high sales taxes on fuel. In the interests of fairness, money raised from fuel taxes should be spent on maintaining roads or even on subsidising public transport. In fact much of it is put to other uses, such as providing healthcare or improving national defence.

Which one of the following is an application of the principle underlying the above argument?

- A Money raised by taxing fuel should be spent on improving roads rather than on public transport.
- B Better transport is more important than national defence.
- C Maintaining roads should be a higher priority than spending on healthcare.
- D Profits from sporting events should be spent on encouraging people to participate in sport.
- E There should be no sales taxes on consumer goods.

IMAT Q17 (2017)

6.

Food manufacturers should reduce sugar levels in processed foods. This is because there are too many overweight and obese people. Since people are unable or unwilling to make sensible decisions for themselves, manufacturers must take responsibility for rectifying a problem to which they contribute.

Which one of the following illustrates the principle used in the above argument?

- A Cigarette packets should have plain packaging and display government health warnings.
- B In order to reduce sugar intake, foods with high sugar content should be taxed more heavily.
- C Power tools should have clear instructions in order to reduce the number of accidents caused by incorrect use.
- D Labelling on food should be improved so that consumers are clear about the level of sugar in a product.
- E To reduce the number of deaths caused by excessive speed, car manufacturers should incorporate speed limiters in vehicles.

IMAT Q7 (2018)