



1

Gardeners are being encouraged to use alternatives to peat, as peat harvesting endangers the wetland habitats of wading birds. But gardening has become the most popular hobby in the UK, with thousands of people visiting garden centres to buy – among other things – peat-based compost. The habitats of wading birds will therefore inevitably decline if gardening continues to be so popular.

Which **one** of the following is an underlying assumption of the above argument?

- A Gardening will remain the UK's most popular hobby.
- B Gardeners will ignore encouragement to use alternatives to peat.
- C The declining habitats of wading birds are being ignored by environmentalists.
- D Garden centres cannot provide cheap alternatives to peat.
- E The habitats of wading birds are under greater threat than those of other wildlife.

BMAT Q23 (2003)

2

Recent threats of terrorism in the UK have resulted in fear of air travel, and consequently more people are taking holidays in domestic resorts than abroad. The consequences for road planning, car parking and the rail network are immense, and travel agents risk going out of business. The government must act quickly to plan for these changes in holiday patterns.

Which **one** of the following is an underlying assumption of the above argument?

- A People may be tempted by bargain offers of holidays abroad.
- B The government is not willing to respond to these changes in holiday patterns.
- C People will prefer to use private cars rather than public transport to reach their destination.
- D There has been an over-reaction to threats of terrorism.
- E The change in holiday patterns will be more than a short term phenomenon.

BMAT Q32 (2003)



Assumption Questions

3.

Recent research has shown that people who keep pets tend to live longer than those who do not. The explanation seems to be that factors such as increased exercise (for dog or horse owners), the soothing properties of stroking a furry animal (such as a cat) and the emotional benefits of affectionate relationships combine to benefit human longevity. Everyone who can own a pet, should do so. Obviously this suggestion is not appropriate to people who are allergic to animals.

Which of the following is an assumption of the above argument?

- A People who have allergies can never have pets.
- B The more pets a person keeps, the longer s/he will live.
- C Dogs, horses and cats are always affectionate to humans.
- D People who have never kept pets may not appreciate their benefits.
- E Everyone should try to live longer.

BMAT Q6 (2004)

4.

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BMAT Q25 (2004)



5. "The traditional school sports day – featuring races with clear winners and losers – is being replaced in some schools by "fun days" of non-competitive games. The rationale for this is that the self esteem of children who always lose in competitive races is damaged. But in adult life, competition for jobs, partners and social status is unavoidable. Schools should recognise this and revert to traditional sports days."

Which **one** of the following is an assumption of the above argument?

- A Children are not naturally competitive.
- B Children who lose competitive races will be unsuccessful in adulthood.
- C Non-competitive games boost children's self esteem.
- D School sports should prepare children for adult life.

BMAT Q2 (2005)

6. "When a judge delivers a judgement in court, dissatisfied defendants do not stand up and shout abuse at him. They turn instead to a civilised appeals procedure. However, footballers who disagree with a referee's decision often act like thugs and scream dissent at the referee. We should not tolerate such aggressive behaviour in a civilised society. Any player acting in this way should automatically be banned from the club's next three games. This would be to the benefit of the school community, given that children imitate their heroes and behave similarly in the classroom and the playground."

Which **one** of the following is an assumption upon which the above argument depends?

- A Football clubs do not attempt to control their players' aggressive behaviour.
- B There is no civilised appeals procedure for footballers who disagree with a referee's decision.
- C Banning players who protest aggressively would reduce the incidence of such behaviour on the pitch.
- D Referees are unlikely to change their minds in response to aggressive protests from players.
- E Children are more likely to imitate the aggressive behaviour than the civilised behaviour of their heroes.

BMAT Q18 (2005)



Assumption Questions

7.

"The media have an important role to play in a democracy, since a democracy requires that voters are well informed about the political issues. However, whenever a government minister makes a serious mistake, journalists seize on it as the only topic worth reporting in the political sphere. They focus on it to the exclusion of all other important political issues. Moreover, the particular story itself has its own dramatic requirements, which means that every detail that supports claims of a minister's incompetence is included, whereas details that would support an alternative view are omitted. A good story is not the same thing as the truth. So it is clear that political journalists are not doing their job properly."

Which of the following is an unstated assumption upon which the above argument is based?

- A Political journalists are deliberately distorting the truth.
- B Voters believe everything they read in the newspapers.
- C It is the job of political journalists to inform voters about the political issues.
- D Democracy does not require that voters know about ministers' mistakes.
- E Political journalists are aiming to destroy the careers of politicians.

BMAT Q4 (2006)

8.

"Most scientists now agree that global warming is a major world threat, and that human activity in generating greenhouse gasses is at least a contributory factor, if not the whole explanation. Although many countries in the developed world have set targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, it is considered unrealistic to expect such restraint by the less developed countries as they attempt to improve their economies and thus reduce poverty. So we are left with a stark choice: is it a priority to act to reduce the long term problems of global warming, or to alleviate current levels of poverty in developing countries?"

Which one or more of the following is an assumption of the above argument?

- 1 Less developed countries have not set targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
 - 2 Developed countries regard alleviating poverty as a higher priority than reducing global warming.
 - 3 Levels of prosperity in the developing countries are not improving.
 - 4 Developing countries can only improve their economies by activities which generate greenhouse gasses.
-
- A 1 only
 - B 4 only
 - C 1 and 3 only
 - D 2 and 4 only
 - E 2, 3 and 4 only
 - F None of the above

BMAT Q16 (2006)



Assumption Questions

9.

Many areas of Britain have been subject to serious flooding in recent years. People who own homes in flooded areas already find it very difficult to sell their houses. With the pace of climate change set to increase, more areas will be at risk of flooding. We are, therefore, facing a future of limited geographic mobility which will have social and economic consequences.

Which of the following statements are assumptions underlying the above argument?

- 1 Climate change is the cause of flooding.
- 2 No effective action will be taken to prevent homes being flooded.
- 3 People will not want to move to areas at risk of flooding.

- A 1 and 2 only
B 1 and 3 only
C 2 and 3 only
D None of the above
E All of the above

BMAT Q28 (2008)

10.

A Welsh police station has incorporated 'colour psychology' into the design of its cells with the intention of improving the success of interrogation. As well as glass doors thought to reduce claustrophobia, a particular shade of yellow has been used which is said by psychologists to have a positive, calming, mood enhancing effect. Similarly royal blue has been used, as evidence suggests that it enhances communication.

What assumption underlies the police's decision to use this colour scheme?

- A That people will be more likely to reveal the truth in interrogation if they feel more at ease.
B That psychologists have full knowledge of what actually happens in the interrogation process.
C That colour psychology is the best way of calming a suspect held for interrogation.
D That it is important not to unnecessarily intimidate people held for interrogation.
E That good interrogation technique is not as important as the environment in which is occurs.

BMAT Q14 (2009)



11.

Praise is an expression of recognition and a conferment of status. Recognition and status are important factors in our self esteem and well being. No matter how well paid someone is, if their efforts are never acknowledged the cash will not quite compensate. By the same token, someone who feels recognised and appreciated will cheerfully put up with other inconveniences, including a less desirable income. The most valuable kind of praise is that which the recipient knows to be appropriate. Praise should only be given to the extent that it is deserved.

Which of the following are assumptions of the argument in the passage above?

- 1 People can accurately assess the recognition they deserve.
 - 2 People who give praise can assess the level of praise which is deserved.
 - 3 Promoting others' self esteem is a duty which we all share.
 - 4 Self esteem produces behaviour which benefits others as well as the individual.
- A 1 and 2 only
- B 1 and 3 only
- C 1 and 4 only
- D 2 and 3 only
- E 2 and 4 only
- F 3 and 4 only



4Uadmission

BMAT Q22 (2009)



Assumption Questions

12.

Scientists have argued over whether the extinction of the dinosaurs was caused by a space impact or by super-volcanic activity which lasted for 1.5 million years. The space impact would have caused sudden large-scale fires and earthquakes. Volcanic activity would have caused a cooling of the atmosphere and acid rain which would be seen in changes to marine and land ecosystems over the 500,000 years before the extinction. As no such changes were identified during this period, the space impact is the only plausible explanation.

Which one of the following is an underlying assumption of the above argument?

- A Volcanic activity would not have also caused large-scale fires and earthquakes.
- B A cooling of the atmosphere and acid rain could have caused the extinction of the dinosaurs.
- C There are no other possible explanations for the extinction of the dinosaurs.
- D The large-scale fires and earthquakes caused by a space impact would have caused the extinction of the dinosaurs.
- E Extinction is always accompanied by significant changes in marine and land ecosystems.

BMAT Q24 (2010)

13.

Reducing class sizes in UK primary schools to 20 pupils would be very expensive and would produce little improvement in children's education. This is confirmed by evidence from the USA. In the 1990s class sizes were reduced in California because the state had been ranked 49th out of 50 states in the reading ability of 9 to 10 year olds. Ten years and \$50 billion later, California had risen only to 48th out of 50. If class sizes are reduced, more teachers are needed. Thus, in the UK, candidates with lower qualifications would have to be recruited, since there are already only 1.2 applicants for each teaching post. What is important is not whether there are 20 or 30 children in a classroom, but whether there is one good teacher. Countries whose children do well at school are those that recruit their teachers from the brightest graduates.

Which one of the following is **not** an assumption underlying the above argument?

- A Candidates with lower qualifications are unlikely to be good teachers.
- B Expensive schemes aimed at improving education cannot be justified.
- C Other states in the USA had not significantly improved children's reading ability.
- D Being taught by the brightest graduates improves pupils' performance.

BMAT Q30 (2010)



Assumption Questions

14

Becoming a London taxi driver isn't as easy as you may think. Unlike other London folk who choose to take the tube or bus, taxi drivers have to spend hours learning the city's road network for a face-to-face exam at the Public Carriage Office to get a licence to start their careers. Recent brain scans on a group of taxi drivers revealed that areas of their brains associated with memory were more developed than would be normal for the general population. So all that learning not only makes them money, but also increases their memory power.

Which one of the following is an assumption made in the above argument?

- A People who have a poor memory do not become taxi drivers.
- B Many people believe that it is easy to become a taxi driver.
- C Brain scans on the same group before they became taxi drivers would not have shown the same results.
- D People usually become taxi drivers in order to make money rather than to improve their memory.

BMAT Q6 (2011)

15

The brain disease vCJD was caused by eating beef from cattle infected with BSE. Susceptibility to this type of disease amongst humans is associated with a particular gene. There are two variants of this gene – M and V, so there are three possible combinations that we can inherit – M-M, M-V and V-V. All infections so far in the UK have been in young people with the M-M combination. Most victims of a similar disease in Papua New Guinea also had the M-M combination and were also young, but a group who developed it later in life all had the M-V combination. Therefore the gene variants one inherits determine the incubation period for such diseases. So there will be two further outbreaks of vCJD, as those who consumed infected beef grow older.

Which of the following is an assumption underlying the above argument?

- 1 Most of the population have eaten beef infected with BSE.
 - 2 Inheriting the V variant prevents infection with vCJD.
 - 3 Inheriting the M variant is not necessary for susceptibility to vCJD.
- A 1 only
 - B 2 only
 - C 3 only
 - D 1 and 2 only
 - E 1 and 3 only
 - F 2 and 3 only
 - G None of the statements

BMAT Q17 (2011)



16.

Authors of articles on health and medical treatments may be sponsored by pharmaceutical companies, by receiving a fee or financial support for their research. The public need to know what weight they should put on these articles when they are assessing evidence from various sources. In the USA, newspapers and broadcasting companies are legally obliged to declare potential conflicts of interest of authors or contributors. We should introduce the same law in the UK.

Which of the following are assumptions underlying the above argument?

- 1 Authors who receive fees from pharmaceutical companies give a one-sided view of the effectiveness and safety of new medical treatments.
 - 2 Companies that sponsor authors of articles on medical treatments aim to influence the content of the articles.
 - 3 The reliability of articles on medical treatments cannot be fairly judged without information about sponsorship by pharmaceutical companies.
- A 1 only
- B 2 only
- C 3 only
- D 1 and 2 only
- E 1 and 3 only
- F 2 and 3 only
- G 1, 2 and 3



4Uadmission

BMAT Q30 (2012)



Assumption Questions

17.

When our hands are soaked in water the skin on them becomes wrinkled. These wrinkles form a pattern of channels (similar to rain treads on tyres) that direct water away from the fingertip. Research shows that this characteristic must have evolved because it gave human beings a better grip underwater. The researchers timed people as they transferred wet or dry objects from one box to another, either with or without wrinkled fingers. Wet objects were transferred faster with wrinkled fingers than without, but the time it took to transfer dry objects was the same as without wrinkles. This suggests that wrinkled fingers are advantageous to us in that they help us to grip wet objects.

Which of the following is an assumption/are assumptions underlying the above argument?

1. It is advantageous for humans to be able to grip objects underwater.
2. Some human characteristics are not advantageous to us.
3. Advantageous characteristics must have evolved because they were advantageous.

- A 1 only
B 2 only
C 3 only
D 1 and 3
E 2 and 3
F 1, 2 and 3



BMAT Q30 (2013)

18.

Plans to share the medical records held by doctors, on a national database, have had to be shelved as a result of public pressure. Yet the public's hostility to this proposal is misguided. Of course people's medical records are personal matters, which they might not want divulged. And yet, while it is in everyone's interests to maintain a degree of privacy, for their own peace of mind, it is also in their interests for medical science to find new treatments for ill-health. If the data were allowed to be shared, medical researchers would have access to an enormous pool of data, which could advance their understanding of illnesses and how they are caused.

Which one of the following is an assumption underlying the above argument?

- A Possible benefits that would come from improvements in medical science outweigh concerns about personal privacy.
- B The medical records will not be made anonymous.
- C The hostility shown by some members of the public is representative of the general mood.
- D People have a tendency to be overly anxious when it comes to online privacy.

BMAT Q15 (2014)



19.

Should people who have been convicted of serious crimes be able to return to their career after serving a prison sentence? At first sight it seems only fair and just that they should, so that offenders can be rehabilitated into society. But what if that person has a career in a high profile job, such as a professional footballer? Millions of young supporters regard football players as role models and heroes. In this case, the giving of a second chance is not justified: it risks sending a message to young people that such behaviour is acceptable. For high profile people with young fans, there should be no second chance.

Which one of the following is an assumption of the above argument?

- A Young football fans cannot distinguish right from wrong.
- B Offenders should in most cases be allowed to obtain employment after a prison sentence.
- C Football is unlike other sports in attracting a high proportion of young fans.
- D The rights of the individual are less important than risks to society.
- E Those convicted of serious crimes must accept the risks posed to their careers.

BMAT Q13 (2015)

20.

Despite years of butter and saturated fats being given a bad press, it has recently emerged that studies in the 1980s that highlighted the dangers of eating too much of these fats were based on a misleading data set. Consequently, the guidance based on these studies to reduce the intake of saturated fats cannot be justified. These studies suggested that a high intake of saturated fat was associated with an increased risk of coronary heart disease and to counter this they should only make up 10% of our diet. Now that this research has been discredited, we can once again enjoy the tastes our grandparents enjoyed without risking our health.

Which one of the following is an assumption made by the above argument?

- A It is possible to enjoy saturated fat in a balanced diet.
- B Coronary heart disease is caused by a range of factors and dietary risks.
- C Other, more robust studies have not subsequently suggested a risk to health from saturated fat.
- D People follow public health advice and limit their saturated fat intake.
- E It is possible to conduct long-term studies that can be used to draw meaningful conclusions about health.

BMAT Q26 (2015)



Assumption Questions

21.

Research has shown that parents with high incomes tend to have children who score highly in IQ tests. It is very unlikely that this is because having rich parents improves one's IQ. Much more likely is that being intelligent tends to result in having a high income, since a high level of intelligence is required for entering well-paid professions such as medicine and law. The research did not examine whether the relationship between parental income and children's IQ scores was dependent on the nature of the parents' profession. If it were found that the children of high earners in sport and entertainment did not generally have high IQ scores, we could conclude that the intelligence level of children is largely genetically inherited from their parents.

Which one of the following is an assumption underlying the above argument?

- A A high level of intelligence is not required for a career in sport or entertainment.
- B The children of rich parents are likely to have a much better education than others.
- C The children of high earners in sport and entertainment are not likely to have high IQ scores.
- D A high level of intelligence guarantees entry to well-paid professions such as medicine and law.

BMAT Q13 (2016)

22.

Recent theories about the causes of cancer have held that most cancers are caused by internal factors, the result of inevitable mistakes in the human body rather than anything environmental. This would seem to imply that whether or not a person develops cancer is entirely out of his or her control; what that person does in terms of lifestyle choices is irrelevant. And yet the latest high-profile study has strongly challenged this. It estimates that between 70 and 90 per cent of the most widespread cancers have extrinsic causes, such as ultraviolet radiation, pollution and stress. If this study is to be believed, then whether or not you develop some cancers is no longer just something you can blame on your biology, but is to a significant extent within your own control.

Which one of the following is an assumption underlying the above argument?

- A The latest study is more accurate than the previously accepted theories.
- B The risk of developing cancer is simply down to extrinsic factors.
- C There can be no ways of preventing the human body from making cancer-causing mistakes.
- D People have some control over the influence of extrinsic factors such as stress or pollution.

BMAT Q28 (2016)



23.

Police departments across the world should require the use of body-worn video cameras for their officers. Research has shown that filming police–public interactions can lower levels of violence within these encounters because the known presence of the camera encourages police officers to better regulate their own behaviour. While it is now common for bystanders to capture footage of police–public encounters on their camera phones or similar devices, police implementation of body-worn video cameras is preferable for a number of reasons. Chief amongst these reasons is the fact that police procedures for body-worn cameras require that an officer issue a clear warning from the start that everyone in an interaction is being filmed.

Which of the following are underlying assumptions of the above argument?

- 1 The level of force used by police in some interactions with the public exceeds that which is required by the situation.
- 2 It is now possible for police departments in different countries to agree on what levels of force are appropriate within police–public interactions.
- 3 In cases where police–public interactions have been filmed by bystanders, the individuals involved may not have been aware of the filming.

- A 1 only
B 2 only
C 3 only
D 1 and 2 only
E 1 and 3 only
F 2 and 3 only
G 1, 2, and 3



4U Admission

BMAT Q28 (2017)



24.

Since 1997, the average number of airliner crashes per year has shown a steady and persistent decline, thanks to the continuing efforts of international aviation organisations and the stringent safety standards now in place in the aviation industry. Recent figures reveal that 2016 was the second safest year on record. There were 17 fatal crashes, resulting in 325 deaths, down from 560 in 2015. Given that a total of around 3.5 billion air passengers flew during 2016, that's just one death per 10.8 million travellers.

Only one year saw fewer deaths – 2013, with 265. But with 3.05 billion passengers boarding a plane that year, that amounts to a very similar number of deaths per passenger (one per 11.5 million). When one discounts sabotage, 2015 was actually the safest year on record. Two crashes, deliberately caused, accounted for the majority of fatalities that year. So it is easy to see that air travel has never been safer.

Which one of the following is assumed by the reasoning in the final paragraph?

- A Crashes that are deliberately caused are extremely rare.
- B Crashes caused by sabotage are not the fault of the airlines.
- C Sabotage does not make air travel less safe.
- D Safety should not be judged on numbers of crashes and fatalities.
- E We have no need to be concerned about sabotage.

BMAT Q22 (2018)