



1. A proposal to counteract low turnout by voters in elections is to introduce the option of voting via the Internet. There are a number of practical issues (such as loss of secrecy, fear of abuse of the system) which mean the proposal would have to be carefully controlled. It may be undemocratic by favouring some political parties more than others. Those parties whose voters tend to be young and better educated would be likely to gain more votes than others.

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

- A Low turnout by voters is endangering our democracy.
- B Voting via the Internet risks loss of secrecy in voting.
- C Some political parties object to the Internet voting proposal.
- D Internet voting would unfairly discriminate against some sections of society.
- E Internet voting would have to be carefully controlled.

BMAT Q6 (2003)

2. The use of animals for experiments for medical research has been criticised by many animal rights campaigners as morally **wrong**. Some campaigners use extreme tactics to gain public attention. But they ignore the many benefits which advances in medicine have for animals themselves. The development of antibiotics, for example, has helped animals as well as humans. If the animal population as a whole derives benefit from experiments on only a small minority of animals, those experiments are morally acceptable.

Which of the following expresses the conclusion of the above passage?

- A Animal rights are less important than human rights.
- B Animals benefit from the results of experimentation.
- C There is clear moral justification for all animal experiments.
- D Only those animal experiments that benefit animals as well as humans are acceptable.
- E The use of animals for experiments in non-medical research is morally wrong.

BMAT Q15 (2004)



Conclusion Questions

3.

The worst of what ensued when the Exxon Valdez spilled 40,000 tons of crude oil into Alaska's coastal waters in 1989 is not that it was the most damaging oil spill in history but that it isn't yet history. Despite the intense research on the ecosystem, this 10,000-square-mile tapestry of icefields, mountains, forests and sea is far from recovered. Lingering and unanticipated injuries abound. A 2001 study found more than 100 tons of toxic oil remaining on dozens of the beaches, oil that seeps out with every tide, and that – because incomplete weathering left behind higher concentrations of toxins – is even more poisonous now than when it gushed from the ripped tanker. This oil will remain on these beaches for decades to come.

[Adapted from: *The Lingering Lessons of the EV*, by Marybeth Holleman. *Ecologist*: May 2004. p 12]

Which of the following most closely identifies the main conclusion of the argument?

- A The worst aspect of the Exxon Valdez oil spill is that its consequences are not yet played out.
- B Despite the research on the coastal ecosystem, the affected environment has not returned to normal.
- C Much of the damage caused by the Exxon Valdez oil spill was due to the particular nature of the coastal line.
- D The harmful effects of the oil are greater now than they were when the Exxon Valdez spilled its cargo.
- E There will be oil on Alaska's beaches decades from now.

BMAT Q17 (2004)

4.

Increases in blood pressure associated with old age are endemic in developed countries, but are rarely seen in underdeveloped countries where people tend to maintain a high level of physical activity throughout their lives. At the other end of the age-range, obesity and diabetes are more common among young people in developed countries, where largely sedentary lifestyles give limited opportunity for exercise.

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

- A Further gains in longevity in developed countries will not be achievable without a change in lifestyle.
- B People who do not take sufficient exercise will suffer from obesity and diabetes.
- C People gain no benefit from physical activity unless it continues into old age.
- D Lifelong exercise is associated with maintaining good health.
- E Young people are more affected by lack of exercise than old people.

BMAT Q19 (2004)



5.

"Despite alarming warnings about the possibility of a global epidemic of bird flu, there is no chance that bird flu will kill thousands of people in Britain. References to the 1918-1919 flu epidemic, when millions died, are misleading. In those days the economy of the country was weak, so the population was vulnerable to infections due to poor nutrition. Now we have a strong economy, therefore children can develop a strong immune system through good nutrition. We are told that increases in the amount of global travel makes it more likely that deadly diseases will spread around the world. Frequent global travellers become immune to infectious diseases simply because they have been exposed to so many of them. So global travel helps to immunise the population."

Which of the following give(s) a reason why the conclusion of the above argument might be unsafe?

- 1 The vast majority of residents of Britain are not frequent global travellers.
- 2 Being immune to a number of infectious diseases may not confer immunity to all infectious diseases.
- 3 The strength of the economy is not the only influence on the quality of children's nutrition.

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



4U Admission

BMAT Q29 (2005)



Conclusion Questions

6.

"Patients who have had a heart-attack or by-pass operation are advised to take a 'mini' aspirin (75mg) a day to reduce the risk of further trouble. Aspirin, it is thought, reduces the body's production of prostaglandins, which can cause platelets in the blood to clump together, increasing the risk of clots. So should we all be taking it, given that aspirin can induce internal bleeding, and carries a slight risk of cerebral haemorrhage?"

Typically doctors advise aspirin only if a patient is found to have a 3% or higher chance of a first heart attack or stroke within five years. Research showed 80% of men pass this threshold by age 50 – on average it is reached by the age of 40. Among the risks which start to add up to a first heart attack are family history, being overweight, smoking, lack of exercise, high blood fat levels and high blood pressure."

[Source: Tony Smith (Here's Health col.) Saga magazine. P56. Adapted]

Which of the following could safely be concluded from the passage?

- 1 Whether or not to take aspirin is a matter of balancing risks and benefits.
 - 2 Anyone over 50, in a sedentary occupation, should certainly take aspirin each day.
 - 3 Risk of heart attack in men increases by 30% between the ages of 40 and 50.
- A 1 only
B 2 only
C 1 & 2
D 1 & 3
E 2 & 3
F 1, 2 & 3



BMAT Q31 (2005)

7.

"Freedom of speech is generally considered to be a key element of a democracy. But when that freedom is used to incite hatred of minority groups, another key feature of democracy – tolerance – is lost. So while it is true to say that freedom of speech is very desirable, it has to have limits put upon it if democracy is to be sustained."

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

- A Freedom of speech and tolerance cannot co-exist.
B Inciting hatred of minority groups should be illegal.
C Freedom of speech and tolerance are key features of democracy.
D Tolerance of minority groups is more important than freedom of speech.
E Freedom of speech in a democracy cannot be unrestrained.

BMAT Q2 (2006)



Conclusion Questions

8.

"Despite a growing problem of eating disorders among young women, the print media still contribute to the problem by featuring photographs of models far thinner than most 'ordinary' people. On the one hand they publish articles about the dangers of anorexia and bulimia, but on the other hand they use images of excessively thin models to promote the latest fashions."

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

- A Young women are more influenced by photographs in the media than by articles about eating disorders.
- B The print media are unaware of the effects of the photographs they publish.
- C The print media are inconsistent in their approach to this issue.
- D The public are only interested in fashion models who are extremely thin.
- E The dangers of anorexia and bulimia are insufficiently understood.

BMAT Q6 (2006)

9.

"The World Health Organisation has recorded 184 human cases of the H5N1 strain of bird flu, all of them caused by contact with infected birds. That 103 of these have resulted in death indicates how dangerous this virus is, and no vaccine has yet been developed. For there to be a worldwide epidemic of H5N1 amongst humans, it would have to be possible for the virus to be passed easily from one person to another. Unlike normal influenza, H5N1 can only bind to receptors deep in the lungs. As a result, it cannot multiply in the upper respiratory system and thereby be transmitted by sneezing and coughing. So it cannot be transmitted easily between people. Influenza viruses can mutate, and thus possibly change the way in which they infect victims."

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

- A Unless a vaccine is developed, many more people will catch the H5N1 strain of bird flu.
- B If H5N1 mutates, there is likely to be a worldwide epidemic amongst humans of this strain of bird flu.
- C Unless H5N1 mutates, a worldwide epidemic amongst humans of this strain of bird flu is unlikely.
- D If a person has no contact with birds they are unlikely ever to catch the H5N1 strain of bird flu.

BMAT Q24 (2006)



Conclusion Questions

10.

"There is no point in building new nuclear power stations, which would increase the amount of dangerous nuclear waste. The major reason for doing so would be to reduce reliance on fossil fuels as a means to generating electricity, and thereby to reduce carbon emissions. New developments in green technologies such as wind power have resulted in a huge rise in the amount these technologies add to the worldwide electricity supply. Energy experts predict that by 2010 they will be contributing much more to that supply than will nuclear power. Although there will still be a need in 2010 for large scale fossil fuel generators, the future trend is clear. No new nuclear plants could be completed before 2020, and by then they will not be needed."

Which of the following give(s) a reason why the conclusion of the above argument might be unsafe?

- 1 In 2020 the worldwide demand for electricity may have increased.
- 2 The rate of increase in the amount of electricity contributed by green technologies may slow down.
- 3 By 2020, safe ways of storing nuclear waste may have been developed.

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



BMAT Q26 (2006)

11.

Acrylamide is a chemical produced in many foods – for example, potatoes, pastries, bread, toast – during normal cooking processes. Animal studies have shown that when ingested, acrylamide is broken down to produce glycidamide, which can damage DNA and cause cancer. In humans, less glycidamide is produced than in animals when acrylamide is broken down. The only way to avoid production of acrylamide in food during cooking is to cook the food at temperatures lower than 120 °C. However, roasting or frying potatoes at lower temperatures makes them absorb more fat, and eating more fat is bad for one's health. Also, the lower the temperature during cooking, the more likely it is that bacteria will survive, thus increasing the risk of food poisoning.

Which of the following can be concluded from the information in the passage above?

- 1 Ingesting acrylamide may be less dangerous for humans than for animals.
- 2 To avoid health problems, it is best to cook food at temperatures higher than 120 °C.
- 3 Eating roast or fried potatoes inevitably involves some health risks.

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

BMAT Q29 (2006)



Conclusion Questions

12.

Simplistic interpretations of traditional evolutionary theory suggest that animals are never altruistic (selfless). In other words their only compelling drive is for personal survival. There are, however, examples in the animal kingdom of "reciprocal altruism", when an altruistic act is carried out, which may be returned at another time. Warning calls by a bird, for example, put the bird at higher personal risk, but the bird will benefit in the long run if others reciprocate. In this case, "altruism" has clear paybacks for the bird.

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

- A Altruism can be seen in humans as well as animals.
- B Traditional evolutionary theory is discredited by increasing knowledge.
- C Reciprocal altruism is compatible with traditional evolutionary theory.
- D Birds operate as a social group with shared interests.
- E Examples of altruism contradict the idea of 'survival of the fittest'.

BMAT Q2 (2008)

13.

Radiation from mobile phones is not strong enough to heat biological tissue or break chemical bonds in cells. However, it may affect cell behaviour. Researchers exposed ten female volunteers to radiation at 900MHz from mobile phones to simulate an hour long phone call. They screened 580 different proteins in their skin cells. They found that the numbers of one protein increased by 89% in all volunteers. Numbers of a second protein decreased by 32% in all volunteers. This is the first study to show molecular effects of phone radiation on humans.

Which of the following can reliably be concluded from the evidence in the passage?

- A Overuse of mobile phones will have a negative effect on human health.
- B The human body has a negligible reaction to low level radiation from mobile phones.
- C People should keep mobile phone conversations to less than an hour.
- D The human body reacts to low level radiation from mobile phones.

BMAT Q15 (2008)



Conclusion Questions

14.

"Young British competitors today are too friendly, and this is affecting their chances of winning major championships. They are all too close, all the current generation are having lunch together and then going off to play for a million dollars.

In the past competitors had to win over and over again to become well known and create a future and a pension plan. These guys now have a future in a year. You can be a millionaire now in six months without even winning. They've got their own clothing lines, they advertise drinks and sportswear, and even have management companies guaranteeing them a signing-on fee for playing in a tournament. In the past it was necessary to play well just to be invited to top events. They started out with little or nothing and were lucky to receive £100 as expenses in one week. But look at what they achieved!"

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

- A The standard of play in Britain has declined over the years due to commitments outside the sport.
- B Nowadays, British players are more interested in money than players from other countries.
- C British players in the past were not on friendly terms with opponents.
- D Nowadays, players can make more money from appearances and outside commitments than they do from winning competitions.
- E Nowadays, it is much harder for British players to win a major championship due to commitments outside the sport.

BMAT Q24 (2008)

15.

Last winter, heavy snowfalls prompted criticism of the Government for failing to ensure that the country is prepared for severe weather. Billions of pounds were lost to businesses through workers being unable to make their journey to work during a week of heavy snowfall. Others felt that these costs should be accepted philosophically. Given that the likelihood of a prolonged period of heavy snow in the UK is very low, it could be said that the high cost of investing in preventative measures would be unreasonable. Governments have to make an assessment of the probability of the event occurring, the cost of preventative measures and the cost of the event happening. In some cases the cost of preventative measures is too high when the risk is low. The recent severe weather is one such case. One might also consider the threats of pandemics such as bird flu, or asteroids hitting the earth, both of which might be considered 'low risk but high cost.'

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

- A The Government has a responsibility to assess risks and costs of possible events.
- B The Government was right not to spend heavily on precautions against prolonged snowfall.
- C The Government should be spending more to protect us against pandemics and asteroids.
- D The Government should have spent more on precautions against prolonged snowfall.
- E The Government should compensate businesses for the billions of pounds lost during a week of snow.

BMAT Q4 (2009)



Conclusion Questions

16.

Although it has been known for some time that ants are able to make alarm calls using sound, advances in technology have enabled scientists to discover that ants routinely “talk” to each other in their nests. Using miniaturised microphones and speakers that can be inserted unobtrusively into nests, researchers established that ants have a vocabulary and can talk to each other by rubbing parts of their abdomen together, and the queens can issue instructions to their workers.

But these surprising abilities can be exploited by other parasitic insects, who can mimic the ants to make them their slaves. Rebel’s large blue butterfly – an endangered species – is a case in point. This species has been found to have learnt to imitate the ants’ sounds so successfully that the butterfly’s caterpillars are carried by ants into the nests where they beg for food and are fed by the worker ants. When a colony is disturbed the ants will rescue the caterpillars before their own broods. They will even slaughter their own young to feed the caterpillars when food is scarce.

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

- A Ants’ abilities to make sounds will eventually lead to their extinction as a species.
- B Rebel’s large blue butterfly is the most notable species to exploit ant colonies.
- C Ants are unusual in displaying lack of loyalty to their own young.
- D Ants have developed abilities to talk to each other in response to threats from parasites.
- E The role of sounds in an ant colony could aid the survival of some species.

BMAT Q26 (2009)

17.

It is human nature to try to explain what we observe occurring around us, a process that people engaged in long before physical, biological or social sciences were established as disciplines. The difference between ‘common sense’ explanations and scientific ones lies in the way the two originate. Everyday observations are haphazard, careless and not systematic, whereas those carried out by scientists endeavour to be specific, objective, well focused and systematic, to the extent that they could be replicated by someone else. While there are few true guarantees, the more systematic and organised the studies we conduct, the more likely they will produce valid explanations that can be used to support decisions.

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

- A Decisions should not be based on common sense explanations.
- B Human nature has long preferred informal observation to scientific study.
- C The best scientists are those who discount all common sense explanations.
- D Common sense explanations are less likely to be valid than those based on scientific enquiry.
- E Scientific explanations often support and substantiate common sense explanations.

BMAT Q30 (2009)



Conclusion Questions

18.

62 trillion spam emails are sent every year, amounting to emissions of more than 17 million tons of carbon dioxide, one of the main contributors to global warming. More effective spam filtering could reduce the amount by 75%, which would be the equivalent of taking 2.3 million cars off the road. This would not deal with the extra energy being used to send out the messages in the first place, however. A better strategy would be to fight spam at the source. When one global web hosting firm was taken offline after it was found to have ties to spammers, global spam volume fell briefly by 70%.

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

- A It is always better to fight problems at the source.
- B Reducing spam is a higher priority than easing congestion on the roads.
- C Action to deal with global warming should include tackling spam as one of the strategies.
- D Spam filtering systems should be improved as much as possible.
- E Action to stop spam will never have long lasting effects.

BMAT Q4 (2010)

19.

Although child road deaths and serious injuries have fallen by 52% in the past ten years, we should not assume that lessons in road safety are no longer vital for school pupils. A Government study reports that in 2006 almost 1,300 boy pedestrians and 700 girl pedestrians were killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents, and that 500 child cyclists were killed or seriously injured, more than 400 of whom were male.

Assuming that 2006 is a representative year for road accidents involving child pedestrians and cyclists, which one of the following is a conclusion that can be drawn from the passage above?

- A There are more boys than girls who own and ride bicycles.
- B Girls spend less time than boys as pedestrians unsupervised by adults.
- C Boys are much more likely than girls to take risks when cycling.
- D Boys are more than twice as likely as girls to be killed or seriously injured as pedestrians or cyclists.
- E Lessons in road safety specially designed for male pupils would reduce child road deaths.

BMAT Q15 (2010)



Conclusion Questions

20.

The behaviour of the general public has contributed to the reluctance of doctors to do out-of-hours work. When doctors only ever had to deal with genuine medical emergencies out-of-hours then the workload was manageable. Unfortunately, the Government has helped stoke public expectations so that now people think they should be entitled to full medical care 24 hours a day, no matter how trivial the problem is. However, minor problems should be dealt with at day surgeries.

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

- A The problem of providing out of hours medical care is partly of the public's making.
- B The Government should encourage doctors to offer separate out-of-hours surgeries for urgent and non-urgent problems.
- C The public cannot distinguish between an urgent and a non-urgent medical problem.
- D Doctors running out-of-hours surgeries see more patients with non-urgent than urgent medical problems.
- E Doctors should turn away patients who come to out of hours surgeries with non-urgent medical problems.

BMAT Q26 (2010)

21.

The seas around the UK have become so noisy that whales are having to sing louder to make themselves heard above the din created by ships, wind farms and oil exploration. With whale numbers severely depleted, the ability to communicate over long distances could be key to their finding a mate. According to a study by marine biologists, around the coast of the UK whale song is now ten times louder than it was fifty years ago, and also higher pitched. Whales are trying to adapt to increased man made noise either by emitting much louder noises or by calling at higher frequencies. Their messages are getting simpler and repeated more often, like a person being forced to shout.

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

- A The noise of modern human life will eventually cause whales to become extinct.
- B Sea-based wind farms should not be built because of the danger to whales.
- C Whales will be able to adapt their communication methods to overcome the problem of human noise.
- D The depletion of whale numbers is caused by the growth of human noise.
- E None of the above.

BMAT Q2 (2011)



Conclusion Questions

22.

A rocky planet, whose mass is three times that of Earth's, could be the first ever to be found outside our solar system with the potential to support human life. Lying in the 'Goldilocks Zone' of the Milky Way, twenty light years away, the planet is said to have gravity similar to Earth and could well be capable of supporting life. The 'Goldilocks Zone' is a region in space where surface temperatures are neither too hot nor too cold for liquid water to form oceans, lakes and rivers. The fact that we were able to detect this planet so quickly and so nearby tells us that planets like this must be really common. The number of systems with potentially habitable planets is probably in the order of 10 or 20 per cent, and when you multiply that by the hundreds of billions of stars in the Milky Way, that's a large number. There could be tens of billions of these systems in our galaxy.

Which one of the following is the best statement of the conclusion of the above argument?

- A Planets with gravity similar to Earth could well be capable of supporting life.
- B For planets to be capable of supporting life, liquid water must be able to form oceans, lakes and rivers.
- C Planets with the potential to support human life are really common.
- D 10 or 20 per cent of systems have potentially habitable planets.
- E There are tens of billions of systems with habitable planets in our galaxy.

BMAT Q26 (2011)

23.

A neutrino is an elementary particle that is able to pass through ordinary matter, but is difficult to detect. Physicists have hypothesised that there is a particular type of neutrino – a sterile neutrino – that cannot be detected at all by their instruments. Relevant evidence comes from supernovae, i.e. exploding stars. If sterile neutrinos did exist, supernovae would shoot them out, and the recoil from this blast would send pulsars (rotating stars that emit a beam of electromagnetic radiation) travelling at high speed through the universe. It turns out that astronomers observe precisely that: pulsars whizzing through the universe at speeds of thousands of kilometres per second.

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

- A Sterile neutrinos must be the cause of the phenomenon of pulsars travelling at high speed through the universe.
- B The phenomenon of pulsars travelling at high speed through the universe could be caused by the existence of sterile neutrinos.
- C The sterile neutrino hypothesis is the best explanation of the phenomenon of pulsars travelling at high speed through the universe.
- D If sterile neutrinos did not exist, pulsars would not be observed travelling at high speed through the universe.

BMAT Q30 (2011)



Conclusion Questions

24.

People with pale skin may be lacking in vitamin D, which is important for healthy bones and teeth. Most people get enough vitamin D with short exposures to the sun (10 to 15 minutes a day). A small amount also comes from the diet, in foods like oily fish and dairy products. But people with pale skin do not seem to be able to get enough. Part of the reason might be that people who burn easily are more likely to cover up and avoid the sun. But some pale-skinned individuals are less able to make and process vitamin D in the body, regardless of how long they sit in the sun.

Based on these findings, pale-skinned people should be added to the list of those for whom vitamin D supplements are recommended by the government. Certain groups are already identified as at higher risk of deficiency and needing supplements. This includes people with very dark skin, such as people of African-Caribbean and South Asian origin, and people who wear full-body coverings, as well as pregnant and breastfeeding women, the elderly and people who avoid the sun.

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

- A Pale-skinned people need more exposure to sunlight.
- B Vitamin D can best be obtained by exposure to sunlight.
- C Pale-skinned people should be recommended to take vitamin D supplements.
- D Longer exposure to sunlight increases the risk of skin cancer.
- E People with very dark skin have a higher need of vitamin D supplements than pale-skinned people.

BMAT Q2 (2012)

25.

Electric engines are more efficient than petrol engines in converting fuel into mechanical power, thus they are more economical in fuel use. But their electricity has to come from somewhere. The UK electricity grid is powered by a mix of sources: coal, gas and nuclear with a few renewables thrown in. If you make extra demand in order to fuel electric cars, only fossil fuels, which produce emissions of CO₂, can provide the extra capacity. Wind turbines cannot turn any faster than wind speed allows, and extra capacity from nuclear power will be possible only when new nuclear power plants are built.

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

- A The electricity needed to power electric cars cannot be provided by the UK electricity grid.
- B Electric cars cannot yet be fuelled without increasing emissions of CO₂ from electricity production.
- C Wind power will never be able to provide more electricity than it does at present.
- D The use of electric engines in place of petrol engines will increase emissions of CO₂.

BMAT Q4 (2012)



Conclusion Questions

26. The unusual weather the UK has experienced over the past few years - very dry warm springs and very cold winters - is what one would expect if the melting of Arctic ice were influencing our weather. And indeed, over the same period the Arctic has undergone its most dramatic shrinkage of sea ice. This means that the Arctic Ocean is warming, which can upset the global balance between cold Arctic air and warm tropical air.

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

- A The melting of the Arctic ice is the only explanation for the UK's unusual weather
- B If the Arctic ice were not melting the UK would not have experienced this unusual weather.
- C The melting of the Arctic ice must have caused the unusual weather in the UK.
- D The unusual weather in the UK could have been caused by the melting of the Arctic ice.

BMAT Q13 (2012)

27. Patients admitted to hospital as an emergency at the weekend have a higher chance of dying than those who are brought in during the week, according to a study which showed that the death rate among emergency admissions increased by 7% at the weekend.

Staffing levels are often lower at weekends, with fewer senior medical staff around, and some specialist services are less available. This may be contributing to the increase in mortality rates on Saturdays and Sundays. As well as lower staffing levels in hospitals, there may be a reduced service in specialist community and primary care services at the weekend, which may result in some terminally ill patients being admitted to hospital and dying there (instead of at home) at the weekends.

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

- 1 Improved staffing levels in hospitals at weekends would reduce death rates.
 - 2 Weekend provision of community and primary care services should be enhanced.
 - 3 Fewer patients should be admitted to hospital at times when staffing levels are low.
- 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 above statements

BMAT Q17 (2012)



Conclusion Questions

28. Cosmologists have suggested new criteria for the boundaries of the 'habitable zone' – i.e. the region around a star, such as the Sun, in which liquid water can theoretically exist. This zone is also called the Goldilocks zone, because temperatures are 'just right' for life there. The new criteria make many planets look too hot for liquid water. One example is Kepler-22b, which was once deemed the most habitable world outside our solar system. Surprisingly Earth, which by the old criteria used to be in the middle of our sun's habitable zone, is now much closer to the warm edge, so that it seems to be almost too hot for liquid water. Of course, we know that Earth is robustly life-friendly. The mismatch is probably because neither set of criteria accounts for clouds, which reflect sunlight away from Earth.

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

- A It is not possible for life to exist on Kepler-22b.
- B Many more planets are habitable than cosmologists previously thought.
- C The criteria cannot give an accurate judgement as to whether a planet is habitable.
- D If Kepler-22b had clouds, it would be possible for life to exist there.

BMAT Q2 (2013)

29. It seems that, no matter how obvious the connection between eating too much and gaining weight, we are all looking for a simple way to cheat our biology and eat more than we need. Although there is a great deal that we do not understand about the individual differences in calorie burn and fat storage in the body, we do know that our bodies burn calories in relation to our level of physical activity. Effectively, our bodies are like vehicles: if we are using fuel quickly we need to put more in, but if we hardly use any fuel up it is a mistake to keep adding more. Therefore, the secret to losing weight is painfully simple – do more and/or eat less.

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

- A Our bodies are like vehicles.
- B We do not understand everything about the way in which calories are used by the body.
- C Greater levels of activity and lower calorie consumption are the keys to weight loss.
- D People burn calories at different rates.
- E Physical activity is the only way in which we can burn up calories.

BMAT Q4 (2013)



30.

There is a tendency to think that carnivores, given their precarious place at the top of the food chain, are the most at risk from extinction. Yet over the course of history it is likely that the opposite has been the case. Herbivores are often more specialist – evolved to suit a particular environment, to eat a particular plant. Carnivores, on the other hand, have tended to retain a more general set of attributes: teeth that could cut as well as chew; physical agility and acute senses, making them less vulnerable to changes in environment. After all, meat remains meat through even the most dramatic of environmental upheavals; whereas grassland might be converted to forest – with serious consequences for the herbivores that are grazing specialists.

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

- A Herbivores are more threatened by environmental changes than carnivores.
- B It is natural to think that carnivores are more at risk of extinction than herbivores.
- C Herbivores are more at risk of extinction than carnivores.
- D Carnivores are better at adapting to changes in environment than herbivores.
- E Carnivores' success is mostly down to their having more general adaptations than herbivores.

BMAT Q2 (2014)

31.

Since the late 1990s wolves have been seen in the Haute-France region of the Alps. This places them once again in conflict with the shepherds who farm this region. Due to the protected status of the European wolf, French farmers are awarded a compensation payment for the loss of any of their sheep to a wolf. This payment amounts to considerably more than the livestock value of the animal. In addition to this, it is very difficult to distinguish between evidence of a wolf attack and dog attack. France has a population of 8 million dogs; 8 000 of these are estimated to be wild compared to only 200 wolves.

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

- A The problem of wolves attacking sheep in the French Alps has been exaggerated.
- B Any claim that a sheep has been attacked by a wolf should be treated with caution.
- C The protected status of the European wolf is unpopular in the French farming community.
- D The wolf's reputation for killing sheep is undeserved.

BMAT Q4 (2014)



32.

Recorded crime figures – the figures which police authorities produce – have always been a poor way to identify crime trends. They are really a measure of police activity and priorities. A big operation to tackle knife crime, for instance, may uncover and record many more offences involving knives: it does not mean knife crime is rising. Added to that, there is an inbuilt temptation for police officers to ‘adjust’ their crime figures when targets need to be met. As with all recorded activity or performance data, there is always a risk of inaccuracy, confusion and fraud. A much more reliable measure of crime is the Crime Survey of England and Wales which produces figures by asking people if they have been victims of crime.

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

- A The police regularly prioritise the tackling of crimes which help them meet their targets.
- B The police care more about meeting targets than they do about tackling crime.
- C Much less crime takes place than police figures tend to indicate.
- D Victims of crime fear retaliation from criminals if they report them to the police.
- E To find out whether crime levels are increasing we should survey people's experience of crime.

BMAT Q13 (2014)



Conclusion Questions

33.

Drivers of motor vehicles are not the only threat to the safety of pedestrians. Official road casualty statistics for 2012 show that, per billion kilometres travelled, cyclists seriously injured 21 pedestrians, compared with 24 pedestrians seriously injured by vehicle drivers. Cyclists who ride on the pavement are regarded as a problem by pedestrians, but statistics show that most collisions between pedestrians and cyclists occur when pedestrians step into the road without seeing a cyclist. Analysis of road casualty data shows that cyclists killed 23 pedestrians in the decade to 2012 and seriously injured 585.

Assuming that 2012 is a representative year, which of the following conclusions can be drawn from the above passage?

- 1 A pedestrian is almost as likely to be seriously injured by a cyclist as by a motor vehicle driver.
 - 2 As a proportion of distance travelled, the risk of a cyclist causing serious injury to pedestrians is almost as great as the risk posed by vehicle drivers.
 - 3 Pedestrians are less likely to be seriously injured by a cyclist when walking on a pavement than when stepping into the road.
- A 1 only
B 2 only
C 3 only
D 1 and 2 only
E 2 and 3 only
F 1, 2 and 3

BMAT Q27 (2014)

34.

The number of people in the UK with tuberculosis (TB) has nearly doubled over the past 25 years, but for most of us the chances of catching the infection are still relatively small. Three quarters of all infections recorded last year were in people from deprived areas; half were not in employment, and one in ten had at least one social risk factor such as poor housing. In these cases, people's immune systems may not be robust due to health problems or poor diet. TB is also more common in people from countries where it is endemic: about three quarters of those diagnosed in the UK every year were born outside the UK. One of the biggest problems in dealing with the new prevalence of TB is that the current generation of doctors is largely unfamiliar with it so they don't even consider the diagnosis.

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

- A People coming from other countries are more likely to have weaker immune systems.
- B People with a poor diet are likely to live in deprived areas.
- C Younger doctors may not appreciate the seriousness of the illness.
- D The figures of those with TB may have been overestimated.
- E People born in the UK who are relatively affluent are unlikely to catch TB.



Conclusion Questions

35. Agriculture faces its biggest challenge since Neolithic days in the way it adapts – or fails to adapt – to climate change. Africa and southeast Asia will be worst affected. In 20 years' time, their climate will be quite different from their climate today: crop varieties used now will yield dramatically less in the changed conditions. Famine and higher food prices will follow. To avert this disaster, we need to develop worldwide seed banks with detailed catalogues showing the traits of each variety and the resistance they have to heat, soil saturation or drought. Farmers can then begin to trial crops and prepare for the future. Seed banks are not the only answer to impending famine but they are an achievable first step.

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

- A Agriculture is facing its biggest challenge since Neolithic times.
- B Seed banks will avert famine caused by climate change.
- C Catalogued seed banks should be created and their contents trialled.
- D Farmers in Africa and southeast Asia should begin trialling different varieties of crops.
- E Crops used today will be unable to grow in new climatic conditions later in the century.

BMAT Q6 (2015)

36. Despite advances in computer modelling and research on humans, we still understand very little about the human brain and we are unable to treat many neurological conditions and injuries effectively because of this. Human brains work in very similar ways to most primates and it is possible to create lesions in primate brains which mimic the effects of certain human conditions. If we accept that it is ethical to test on primates rather than humans, such research could be done using primates. Through understanding the effects of brain lesions, we may be able to develop treatments and therapies that would benefit humans.

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

- A Experimentation on primates should be considered as a means to develop treatments for brain disorders.
- B Computer modelling will continue to support brain research.
- C Creating lesions directly to patients' brains may cure some brain disorders.
- D Primate experimentation is unacceptable under most conditions.
- E Experimentation on primates will enable us to cure neurological conditions.

BMAT Q15 (2015)



Conclusion Questions

37. Forest fires in Indonesia this year have emitted 1.6 gigatonnes of CO₂. To put that in perspective, it has been estimated that the entire world must emit less than 1000 gigatonnes of CO₂ every year from now on if we are to avoid dangerous global warming. When forest vegetation burns, the amount of CO₂ released into the atmosphere can be taken back up again by the plants as they regrow. But in Indonesia it is not only the plants that are burning. Peat that has accumulated over thousands of years is also on fire, releasing buried carbon. Forest fires in Indonesia burn most fiercely in years when the region is drier, as it is this year. Rain arrived in Indonesia recently, and the number of new fires has dropped.

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

- A The forest fires in Indonesia will prevent the achievement of world targets for CO₂ emissions.
- B It is likely that some of the CO₂ from the fires in Indonesia will remain in the atmosphere.
- C It is unlikely that forest fires will emit as much CO₂ next year as they have emitted this year.
- D If forest fires can be prevented or better controlled, dangerous global warming will not occur.

BMAT Q2 (2016)

38. Wide-ranging increases in the cost of bringing a civil court case recently announced by the UK government are an assault on citizens' access to the law. It is tantamount to treating justice like a commodity. The latest proposals will increase fees by more than 1000% for claims of £200 000 or more. They will deter individuals and small businesses from taking cases to court, for fear of the cost if they lose, crippling anyone trying to recover monies owed to them. All civil cases, from divorce to landlords trying to get their property back, are affected. If justice is not to be out of reach of the majority of ordinary people, the government must think again. The civil courts are the backbone of a fair society and a prosperous economy.

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

- A The planned increase in court fees is an attack on people's ability to seek justice.
- B The government is proposing to treat justice like a saleable object.
- C Individuals and business will be put off taking their grievances to court.
- D The government needs to reconsider, or justice will be inaccessible to most people.
- E The civil courts are crucial to fairness and prosperity.

BMAT Q6 (2016)



Conclusion Questions

39. A group of UK scientists have a rare opportunity to study human brains thanks to the promise of donations of brains after death by some members of a study group. The dissection of these brains and the counting of the numbers of synapses in them may add evidence to the idea of 'cognitive reserve': when a person gets older, they start to lose some brain synapses, with a negative impact on cognitive function. Those elderly people who have led a 'brain friendly' lifestyle when younger are thought to have created extra synapses, mitigating the naturally occurring loss of synapses through age. Adopting a 'brain friendly' lifestyle when younger should make it possible to retain cognitive performance into old age. Such a lifestyle is thought to include reading books, being socially active and physically healthy.

Which one of the following can reliably be concluded from the information in the above passage?

- A The loss of brain synapses in old age is due to a poor lifestyle adopted when younger.
- B On average, those elderly people who have lived a 'brain friendly' lifestyle would be expected to have a higher number of synapses in their brains.
- C Deteriorating cognitive performance in old age is still little understood due to the limited opportunities to study the human brain.
- D Reading, socialising and staying healthy will ensure optimum quality of life in old age.
- E We should all be encouraged to donate our brains for medical research after death.

BMAT Q15 (2016)

40. There were 61 million prescriptions for antidepressant drugs in the UK in 2015. This was double the number of prescriptions in 2005. In 2014, there were 1.1 million mental health disability claimants. This was double the number in 1995.

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

- A While antidepressant drugs can help combat mental illness in the short term, data suggests that in the long term their use leads to worse outcomes for patients.
- B Doctors are being increasingly encouraged to prescribe drug treatment for people suffering from depression regardless of how effective a treatment it is.
- C Antidepressant drugs are clearly not an effective solution in the long term treatment of mental illness.
- D Figures for drug prescriptions and disability claimants provide no evidence that antidepressant drugs are improving the long term mental health of people in the UK.

BMAT Q2 (2017)



Conclusion Questions

41.

Research about a 'health check' programme operated by the National Health Service (NHS) is receiving a lot of attention amongst UK health policymakers. The study found that the 'health checks', dedicated screening appointments offered to everyone in middle age, have uncovered thousands of cases of high blood pressure and other serious health risk factors not previously diagnosed in the people attending the appointments. Government officials have been especially keen to highlight the fact that this level of detection of such risk factors could equate to the prevention of over 2,000 heart attacks and strokes. The researchers did not, however, continue to monitor the health of the individuals identified to have the risk factors or track whether they went on to take the prescribed medications or make the other lifestyle changes recommended to them as a result of their 'health checks'.

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

- A The cited research can be used to justify fully the resources spent on the 'health checks'.
- B Screening programmes alone cannot influence people's health-related behaviours.
- C The cited study does not prove conclusively that the 'health checks' have prevented over 2,000 heart attacks and strokes.
- D More NHS resources should be used to monitor the long-term health outcomes of individuals.
- E The 'health checks' would be even more effective if they were offered to people in other age groups.

BMAT Q26 (2017)

42.

In the UK in the 1990s, there was an outbreak of the brain disease vCJD, which was caused by eating beef from cattle infected with the disease BSE. The type of meat thought to be infected was taken out of the food chain in 1989, and cases of vCJD have been declining since 2000. Susceptibility to vCJD is associated with two variants in a gene: M and V. We can inherit three possible combinations: MM, MV and VV. Until last year, all 177 people diagnosed with the disease in the UK had the MM combination. Recently, someone who had the MV combination has died of the disease. In the UK, 38% of people have the MM combination and 51% have the MV combination.

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

- A Eleven per cent of people in the UK are not susceptible to vCJD.
- B Having one V variant of the gene does not guarantee resistance to vCJD.
- C Eating infected beef does not cause vCJD in everyone with the MM combination.
- D Around half the UK population is at risk of developing vCJD in the future.

BMAT Q2 (2018)



Conclusion Questions

43.

When the development of the internet enabled ordinary people to have free, easy access to information, it seemed as though a great breakthrough had been made in empowering people. The subsequent development of social media made it possible for people to share opinions and quickly organise protests against ruling governments. These two technological developments seemed a healthy way forward for democracy. But now social media, which lacks the checks and editing of traditional information sources, enables people to share deliberately false information, which is then accepted as 'truth' by many. Opinions are being manipulated via social media by people with their own motivations to discredit rivals or groups with different opinions, and gain power themselves. Social media has become a vehicle for spreading untruths, and has thereby undermined democracy.

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

- A Social media should be regulated to censor the publishing of false information.
- B Technological developments have done more harm than good to democracy.
- C Democracy has been made weaker by the use of social media.
- D Democracy depends on the availability of truthful information.
- E Organised protests and direct action are undemocratic.

BMAT Q6 (2018)

44.

The BBC's codes and guidelines have maintained its reputation for broadcasting news that is representative of different political opinions. These include the political Right's promotion of the freedom and prosperity of business, in contrast to the Left's view that businesses should be regulated to serve everybody's interests. There are no similar requirements for newspapers. The range of views on offer in the press derives largely from the extent of the pluralism of ownership and, in turn, the degree to which owners seek to influence editorial direction. Newspaper ownership in Britain is concentrated in the hands of a few businessmen. Newspapers are rarely profitable, but provide power, influence and easy access to the establishment, which their owners can exploit to secure economic conditions favourable to their businesses. Owners can directly dictate the newspaper's position on a particular issue, and staff can be appointed for, or censored by, the political ethos of the organisation.

Which of the following can be concluded from the above passage?

- 1 The Right promotes the interests of newspaper owners in Britain.
 - 2 The political opinion presented in the British press is biased in favour of the Right.
- A 1 only
 - B 2 only
 - C both 1 and 2
 - D neither 1 nor 2

BMAT Q15 (2018)



Conclusion Questions

45. A study of routine health screening programmes found no consistent evidence that they improved health or reduced death rates and concluded that 'while we cannot be certain that general health checks lead to benefit, we know that all medical interventions can lead to harm'. Possible harms include overtreatment due to false positive results. In routine screening for breast cancer, for example, tumours may be detected leading to major surgery when those tumours may never – if left alone – have developed into anything harmful. Furthermore, people who are better off or healthier are more likely to participate in routine screening, so the screening may not reach those who need it most. This is not to imply that the individual components of health checks are ineffective or to discount the value of targeted screening programmes in geographical areas where levels of disease are more prevalent.

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

- A Being better off enables people to lead healthier lifestyles.
- B The value of universal screening programmes has been underestimated.
- C People who participate in breast cancer screening are not informed of the risk of 'false positives'.
- D Targeted screening programmes would be more effective than universal programmes.

BMAT Q28 (2018)

46. The standard price for a cup of coffee in Italy is €1 (about £1), but in the UK you can be charged as much as £4. But why? The biggest part of the cost of serving a cup of coffee certainly isn't the coffee. The most significant cost is staff wages, though in fact that's not the key difference. It's the difference in drinking culture that has the greatest effect on the difference of the price of a cup of coffee: British coffee drinkers spend far longer on a coffee than Italians, who order a coffee at the bar and drink it standing up, allowing Italian cafés to make more sales for the same costs. The opposite extreme is in Greece, where people sit over a single coffee for hours. As a result, Greece has some of the most expensive coffees in Europe, despite having lower wages.

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

- A The biggest part of the cost of serving a cup of coffee is not the coffee but the staff wages.
- B The difference in drinking culture has the greatest effect on the difference in the price of a cup of coffee.
- C Greece has some of the most expensive coffees in Europe, despite having lower wages.
- D Italians who order a coffee at the bar and drink it standing up allow Italian cafés to make more sales for the same costs.

BMAT Q13 (2019)



Conclusion Questions

47. People seem to love words that give a sense of size, terms like 'umpteen' and 'zillion'. These terms are referred to as 'indefinite hyperbolic numbers' – 'indefinite' because they do not represent actual numbers, and 'hyperbolic' because they are used to imply a larger size than the reality. What's interesting is that everyone roughly agrees on the size these vague terms refer to, and that is because there are language models that underpin the terms and allow a general understanding of their meaning. For example, the word 'umpteen' has a generally agreed meaning of 'big, but not bigger than a hundred', using the language model '-teen' from the two-digit numbers thirteen to nineteen. And the indefinite hyperbolics 'gazillion' and 'bazillion' use 'ga' and 'ba' as intensifiers to the root word 'zillion' (itself an indefinite hyperbolic) to suggest a number more than a billion or even than a zillion!

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

- A Indefinite hyperbolic numbers encourage exaggeration and rhetoric.
- B Indefinite hyperbolic numbers are not misunderstood by native speakers.
- C Indefinite hyperbolic numbers are more rule-based than might be apparent at first sight.
- D Indefinite hyperbolic numbers use language models in unusual ways.

BMAT Q15 (2019)

48. The chore of raising young chicks is one some birds manage to avoid. By laying their eggs in the nests of others, they dupe those others into feeding the babies once hatched. Such 'brood parasitism' has been noted in at least three groups, namely cuckoos, cowbirds and honeyguides. It provides a good example of convergent evolution, in which unrelated groups with similar ways of life evolve similar adaptations that help them thrive. The adaptation noted in these three groups of birds is that the shells of their eggs are significantly thicker than those of the birds they parasitise. To demonstrate that this is an example of convergent evolution, a benefit has to be shown to be associated with the adaptation. In this case, the thicker shells have been shown to provide greater warmth, enabling the parasitic chicks to hatch sooner than the chicks of the host bird – giving a greater chance of survival.

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

- A Cuckoos, cowbirds and honeyguides have evolved to avoid the chore of raising their young.
- B The brood parasitism noted in cuckoos, cowbirds and honeyguides provides an example of convergent evolution.
- C Chicks which hatch from eggs with thicker shells have a greater chance of survival.
- D Convergent evolution can only be said to have been shown if a benefit is brought about by the life adaptation.

BMAT Q24 (2019)



Conclusion Questions

49. People often comment on the fact that the sport of swimming has had a relatively high number of new world records set over the past few decades. Many other developments have occurred in the sport during that time, including the manufacture of swimsuits that create less resistance as swimmers move through the water, and improvements in the design of the starting blocks used in races. Even the engineering of swimming pools has evolved. Engineering advancements make it easier to maintain an optimal water temperature and other conditions in the pools where top competitions are held and the time records set. Most recently, computer software was developed that allows elite swimmers to analyse the tiniest part of their movement in the water in order to keep adjusting their swimming strokes.

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

- 1 Swimming is likely to have a relatively high number of new world records set over the next few decades.
 - 2 Natural ability no longer matters all that much in determining what swimmers can achieve in their sport.
 - 3 Technological progress has played a role in swimmers being able to set new world records.
- 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



BMAT Q26 (2019)

50. A recent study found an association between the number of self-help books new mothers read about caring for their baby and the well-being of those mothers – and it goes in the wrong direction. The more books women had read claiming to show how to put babies into feeding and sleeping schedules, the worse they reported feeling. The number of depressive symptoms they reported correlated positively with the number of books they had read. Most of the mothers in the study had used routine-led baby manuals that advise mothers to implement routines of feeding and sleeping, implying that such routines are easy to establish. One in six of the mothers in the study said the books made them feel like a failure.

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

- A Women are using self-help baby books rather than seeking advice from their own mothers.
B Mothers who find baby care difficult are more likely to buy self-help books.
C Some of the mothers experienced difficulty establishing feeding and sleeping routines for their babies.
D Self-help baby books are doing more harm than good.

BMAT 30 (2019)