



1.

The UK government wishes to increase the number of young people from poorer families entering university education. However, it has recently changed the way in which it provides financial support for students. Whereas it used to provide grants that the student did not need to repay, it now provides loans that the student must repay when he or she enters employment. Research shows that students from poorer families are more likely to be deterred from going to university by the prospect of debt.

Which **one** of the following is an inference that can be drawn from the passage above?

- A Students from poorer families are less interested in entering university.
- B Universities will not be willing to help meet the government's target.
- C The government's action is likely to deter poorer students from going to university more than richer.
- D The prospect of debt is a deterrent to all students, not just the poorer ones.
- E Maintenance grants were too expensive for the government to fund.



BMAT Q4 (2003)

Here, the answer is C.

The passage concludes by saying that ultimately 'students from poorer families are more likely to be deterred from going to university by the prospect of debt.' Therefore it can be inferred that students from richer families are less likely to be deterred from going to university compared to students from poorer families. This is summarised in statement C.

Statement A is incorrect because there is no mention of how poorer families would be 'less interested' in going to university based on the increase in debt that would have to be repaid.

Statement B is incorrect because there is no mention of how universities are less willing to help meet government targets.

Statement D is incorrect as the final sentence implies that students from poorer families are more likely to be affected rather than all students being deterred equally.

Statement E is also incorrect because there is no mention of maintenance grants specifically, just simply grants in general.



Inference Questions

2.

Many people think that if they – or ‘the experts’ – cannot explain something, it must therefore be truly paranormal. An amateur archaeologist declares that because he cannot figure out how the pyramids were built, they must have been constructed by aliens. Feats such as the bending of spoons, or telepathy, are often thought paranormal or mystical. But if they were explained people would respond, “Yes, of course” or “That’s obvious once you see it.” Fire-walking is a case in point. People speculate about the supernatural powers of fire-walkers over pain and heat, yet the simple explanation is that the conductivity of heat from the light and fluffy coals to the walker’s feet is very poor. As long as you don’t stand still, you will not get burned.

Which one of the following is an inference which is supported by the above passage?

- A There are no truly paranormal occurrences.
- B Everything that occurs has an explanation.
- C The lack of a simple explanation does not make an occurrence paranormal.
- D Feats such as spoon bending and telepathy do not really occur.



BMAT Q8 (2007)

Here, the answer is C.

Statement C is correct here because the first sentence starts by challenging that how previously when something could not be explained it therefore needed to be truly paranormal. It then goes on to provide evidence that explanations would make people realise that such feats are not necessarily paranormal.

Statement A & B are too bold to be correct here and are therefore incorrect.

Statement D is incorrect because there is no mention how the feats mentioned are true or not but merely mentioned as examples of things that are thought to be paranormal.



3.

A campaign poster on public transport vehicles recently announced that 40% of teenage girls below the age of 16 who become pregnant were found to have been under the influence of alcohol at the time they had sexual intercourse.

Which of the following can reliably be inferred from the above statistic?

- 1 Young people who are underage drinkers are more likely to be sexually active than those who do not drink.
 - 2 If there were stricter controls on the sale of alcohol to young people there would be fewer teenage pregnancies.
 - 3 At least 40% of girls have consumed alcohol by the age of 16.
- A 1 and 2 only
- B 1 and 3 only
- C 2 and 3 only
- D 1, 2 and 3
- E None of the above



BMAT Q24 (2009)

Here, the answer is E.

No statements here are correct.

Statement 1 is incorrect because there is no mention of underage drinkers who are not sexually active. It cannot be assumed that because girls that engage in underage drinking that they are necessarily sexually active too.

Statement 2 is incorrect because it cannot be assumed that if stricter controls were imposed upon younger people that this would reduce the number of pregnancies. It is therefore assuming that underage drinking is more likely to lead to underage pregnancies, which is incorrect.

Statement 3 is incorrect to say because the paragraph only mentions how 40% of 16 year old pregnant females were found to be under the influence of alcohol and not that the total 16 year old female population is therefore consuming alcohol.