



# GMAT

## Verbal Section Test [CRITICAL REASONING] - Solutions

QUESTION NO	CONCEPT TESTED	HINT FOR THE ANSWER	REASONS FOR ELIMINATION	DIFFICULTY LEVEL
1	It is a strengthen question as the phrase in the question says “if true, would most strengthen the argument”	<p><b>Situation</b> Both the number and the percentage of Prime lenses users who are 13 to 60 years old are increasing. Opticians prefer to reach people in this age group.</p> <p><b>Reasoning</b> What evidence, when combined with the cited facts, would most support the prediction that Prime lenses will receive more income from opticians? The argument assumes that the increasing number and percentage of lense users in the age group that opticians prefer to reach will probably encourage opticians to spend more on marketing with Prime. This assumption could be supported by evidence that the opticians realize that Prime is getting more users in that preferred age range or by evidence that this awareness will influence the opticians’ purchase of marketing time.</p>	<p><b>Option A: this adds strength to the given argument</b></p> <p>Option B: weakens the argument if considered</p> <p>Option C: out of scope</p> <p>Option D: out of scope</p> <p>Option E: if considered would weaken the argument</p> <p><b>Answer: A</b></p>	Medium

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2	It is a bold-face question as the phrase in the given question says “the portion in boldface plays which of the following roles”	<p><b>Situation</b> The hunter claims that hunters have been identified by many people as the sole cause of the decline in Alita National Forest’s reindeer population. But the hunter argues that tigers have also contributed to the reindeer population decline. Tigers are protected and have increased in number, and they have been found to have fed recently on reindeer.</p> <p><b>Reasoning</b> What role in the argument is played by the hunter’s statement that many people blame hunters alone for the decline in the national forest’s reindeer population? In this statement, the hunter claims that many people have judged hunters responsible for the decline. The hunter then goes on to offer evidence supporting a different judgment: that hunters are not solely responsible, but that tigers are also to blame.</p>	<p>Option A: It is an alternate explanation but not the main conclusion.</p> <p>Option B: The argument seeks to offer a reason for the finding that the reindeer population has declined, not the finding that people blame hunters for that decline.</p> <p>Option C: it is false; rather, the hunter suggests that tigers should also be blamed</p> <p>Option D: does not support the main conclusion</p> <p><b>Option E: Correct. The boldfaced statement cites a judgment that the hunter attributes to many people, and that the hunter argues is incorrect. The hunter opposes the judgment that hunters alone are responsible for the decline in the reindeer population</b></p> <p><b>Answer: E</b></p>	Easy

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3	It is an assumption question as the phrase in the given question says “the argument depends on which of the following”	<p><b>Situation</b> Allowing cold drink vending machines in a company cafeteria would financially benefit the company, but employees who drink more cold drinks would become less healthy.</p> <p><b>Reasoning</b> What must be true in order for the claim that employees drinking more cold drinks would cause them to become less healthy to justify the conclusion that cold drink vending machines should not be allowed in the cafeteria? The argument is that because drinking more cold drinks would be unhealthy for the employees, allowing the vending machines would not be in the employees’ interest, so the vending machines should not be allowed. This reasoning depends on the implicit factual assumption that allowing the vending machines would result in the employees drinking more cold drinks. It also depends on the implicit value judgment that receiving financial benefits should be less important to the company than preventing a situation that would make the employees less healthy.</p>	<p><b>Option A: this has to be the assumption</b></p> <p>Option B: out of scope of the given argument</p> <p>Option C: The explanation is not related to the premise</p> <p>Option D: fact that is not related to the claim of the author</p> <p>Option E: out of scope of the given argument</p> <p><b>Answer: A</b></p>	Easy

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4	It is logical completion question as the phrase in the given question says "Which of the choices most logically completes the following argument"	<p><b>Situation</b> The Small World is suffering decline in circulation and advertising revenue due to competition from a lower-priced comic. The publisher proposes offering The Small World for free to reverse these declines.</p> <p><b>Reasoning</b> What would suggest that the publisher's proposal will fail to increase circulation and advertising revenue? The proposal's intended effect is simply to increase advertising revenue by increasing circulation. Any evidence that offers the comic for free will not result in more copies being circulated or will not attract advertisers would therefore be evidence of a drawback in the proposal. So a statement offering such evidence would logically complete the argument.</p>	<p>Option A: leaves open the possibility that providing the comic free might still boost readership</p> <p>Option B: This is a parallel reasoning and doesn't have any link with the argument of the author</p> <p><b>Option C: Correct. If the proposal leads newsstands and stores to stop carrying The Small World , circulation and advertising revenue would probably decline as a result</b></p> <p>Option D: This still leaves the scope of the other 88% pushing up the circulation</p> <p>Option E: out of scope</p> <p><b>Answer: C</b></p>	Easy

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5	It is a weaken question as the phrase in the given question says “Which of the following, if true, would most indicate a vulnerability of the executive’s argument”	<p><b>Situation</b> According to an executive, Zeba cars use less diesel per kilometer than others, and diesel produces air pollution. Drivers can save money by driving diesel-efficient cars, and will be encouraged to do so if made aware of the fact. The executive concludes that highlighting this fact will result in a reduction in air pollution.</p> <p><b>Reasoning</b> What would suggest that telling drivers they can save money by driving diesel-efficient cars would not reduce automotive air pollution, despite the facts cited by the executive? The executive’s implicit reasoning is that since Zeba cars use less diesel per kilometer, and diesel produces air pollution, drivers who drive Zeba cars must produce less air pollution than those who drive other cars. The executive concludes that encouraging drivers to drive Zeba cars by telling them they would save money on diesel will therefore reduce automotive air pollution. Evidence that drivers who drive Zeba cars produce just as much automotive air pollution as those who drive other cars would undermine this argument.</p>	<p><b>Option A: this weakens the argument</b></p> <p>Option B: argument does not discuss about air pollution from all the sources hence, out of scope of the given argument</p> <p>Option C: telling drivers they can save money by driving diesel-efficient cars would help gain more popularity</p> <p>Option D as well as Option E: irrelevant with respect to the desired answer choice</p> <p><b>Answer: A</b></p>	Difficult

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6	It is a weaken question as the phrase in the given question says “Which of the following, if true, most seriously undermines the biologist’s argument”	<p><b>Situation</b> A biologist attributes the low number of articles about electron microscope in biology journals to the fact that several electron microscopes at major research institutions had been out of service the previous year.</p> <p><b>Reasoning</b> What point undermines the biologist’s argument? The biologist assumes that the researchers’ lack of access to the electron microscope is responsible for the decline in the number of articles. What else could explain fewer articles? What if the decline is due, not to the availability of the electron microscopes for experiments, but to policies regarding publishing articles related to such experiments?</p>	<p>Option A: This supports rather than weaken the argument</p> <p>Option B: This is unrelated to the argument</p> <p>Option C: This statement contradicts what the author has mentioned as a fact</p> <p>Option D: This is unrelated to the argument</p> <p><b>Option E: Correct. This statement properly identifies a point that undermines the biologist’s reasoning</b></p> <p><b>Answer: E</b></p>	Difficult

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7	It is a weaken question as the phrase in the question says “Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the argument”	<p><b>Situation</b> In California, the older people get, the less likely they are to eat in Chinese-food stalls. The average age of California population is increasing.</p> <p><b>Reasoning</b> What evidence would most weaken the support provided by the cited facts for the prediction that the number of Chinese-food stalls in California is likely to decrease? The argument implicitly reasons that since studies have shown that California population tend to eat in Chinese-food stalls less as they get older, and since California population are getting older on average, the proportion of them eating in Chinese-food stalls will decline. The argument assumes that this means the overall number of Chinese-food stalls customers will decline and that demand will decrease enough to reduce the number of Chinese-food stalls that can sustain profitability. Consequently, fewer new Chinese-food stalls will open or more old ones will close, or both. Thus, the number of Chinese-food stalls in California will fall. Any evidence casting doubt on any inference in this chain of implicit reasoning will weaken the argument.</p>	<p>Option A: This adds strength to the argument</p> <p>Option B: This adds strength to the argument</p> <p>Option C: out of scope</p> <p><b>Option D: Correct</b></p> <p>Option E: This adds strength to the argument</p> <p><b>Answer: D</b></p>	Easy



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8	It is a strengthen question as the phrase in the question says “Which of the following, if true, most helps to explain the disproportionate increase”	<p><b>Situation</b> Last year Eastern Airlines had thrice as many delayed flights as it did the year before, but four times as many passenger complaints about delayed flights. The airline made a special effort to improve other aspects of its service last year.</p> <p><b>Reasoning</b> What could explain why the number of complaints about delayed flights increased disproportionately to the number of delayed flights last year? In other words, why did the average number of passenger complaints per delayed flight go up last year? One obvious possibility is that the average number of passengers per delayed flight was greater last year than it had been the year before. Another is that the flight delays tended to cause worse problems for passengers last year than they had the year before, so that on average each delay was more upsetting for the passengers.</p>	<p>Option A: Although provides certain explanation; this does not address the question that we are looking for</p> <p>Option B: Although provides certain explanation; this does not address the question that we are looking for</p> <p>Option C: the information we are given here is too general and too vague to explain the disproportionate increase in complaints.</p> <p><b>Option D: Correct. Longer flight delays would have more severely inconvenienced passengers and thus would probably have generated more passenger complaints per delay</b></p> <p>Option E: This is out of scope</p> <p><b>Answer: D</b></p>	Easy

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9	It is a bold-face question as the phrase in the given question says “the portion in boldface plays which of the following roles”	<p><b>Situation</b> It is generally thought that the reason physicists tend to do their most creative work before age fifty is that creative capacity declines with age. Yet those physicist who do creative work after fifty tend, disproportionately, to have started their careers in physics later in life. So a better explanation is that many physicists over fifty have just been at it too long.</p> <p><b>Reasoning</b> What roles do the two portions of the argument that are in boldface play? The argument describes a phenomenon and what is commonly thought to explain it. Then, the first boldfaced statement introduces evidence that suggests that there may be another explanation. After this evidence is further developed, the argument then concludes that there is indeed a better explanation for the phenomenon; that explanation is stated in the second boldfaced portion.</p>	<p>Option A: The accuracy of the first statement is never called into question by the argument; rather, it is relied upon as the basis for the argument’s conclusion</p> <p>Option B: B The first statement is not an objection against the position the argument defends; instead, it is a basis for that position</p> <p>Option C: The first statement is not used to support a position the argument challenges, and the second statement is the explanation the argument supports, not the one it challenges</p> <p>Option D: The second statement is indeed an explanation that the argument favors; but the first statement is not used to support a competing explanation that the argument challenges.</p> <p><b>Option E: Correct. This option correctly identifies the roles played by the boldfaced portions of the argument</b></p> <p><b>Answer: E</b></p>	Difficult

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10	It is a bold-face question as the phrase in the given question says “the portion in boldface plays which of the following roles”	<p><b>Situation</b> Country Zeta recently had a stock-trading scandal. <b>Reasoning</b> What role does the statement that the scandal’s discovery confirms that Country Zeta has a strong regulatory system play in the argument? In the sentence containing the boldface statement, the phrase For one thing indicates that the statement is being used to justify the claim in the preceding sentence. Thus, the boldface statement must support that preceding sentence as a conclusion. Directly after the boldface statement, the phrase as the following considerations show indicates that the subsequent sentences are being used to support the boldface statement. Thus, the boldface statement is a conclusion supported by the sentences following it, and this statement itself supports the sentence preceding it, which must be the argument’s main conclusion</p>	<p>Option A: As explained in the reasoning, this cannot be the only conclusion</p> <p><b>Option B: Correct</b></p> <p>Option C: Incorrect because, because it supports a further conclusion presented in the sentence preceding it.</p> <p>Option D: the sentences following the boldface statement are the explicit support provided for it</p> <p>Option E: the argument’s main conclusion is stated only in the first sentence, which precedes the boldface statement. It is not repeated anywhere in the boldface statement.</p> <p><b>Answer: B</b></p>	Medium

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