

Inference

1. This problem is hard because the second-best answer-choice is nearly as good as the answer. Choice (A) overstates the argument. The author implies merely that a free press is necessary for democracy, not sufficient. Choice (B) uses the same language used in the argument to overstate the second clause. Choice (C) is second-best; it slightly overstates the argument. It is conceivable that the author considers a press with certain restrictions to still be free; for example, restrictions against slander and libel. Choice (D) is the answer since it necessarily follows from the argument. You may have noticed that it is the contrapositive of the conclusion found at the end of the argument. (We will discuss the use of formal logic to solve arguments later.) Finally, choice (E) makes a false claim. A society may have a free press yet fail to be a democracy. For example, historically the U.S. has had a free press. Yet many people would claim that it did not become a true democracy until the right to vote was granted to women and blacks. Notice that choice (E) is merely a rewording of choice (A).
2. The golf association requires two conditions to be met before a golfer will be admitted into the Labor Day tournament. First, the golfer must pay the entry fee by June 1. Second, the golfer must have won a major tournament during the previous calendar year. Since Smith was accepted to play in the Labor Day tournament, he must have won a major tournament the previous year. Selection (A) is correct.
3. A conclusion for this argument is requested. In order to accurately assess his students on exams, the professor desires to eliminate cheating from his classroom. He believes that a tough policy on cheating will deter students from cheating. Therefore, he is more likely to reach his goal if he announces his policy on cheating and makes it known that he will track down cheaters and punish them. The answer is (D).
4. The first sentence is critical to this question: publishers depend upon people who buy books and other printed materials. If the advance of the computer information age eliminates the need for printed information, then the publishing industry is threatened by the public's wide-spread use of computers and the Internet. The correct answer is (B).

5. This question is fairly simple; students should not agonize over it. Clearly, before a new variety of fruit or vegetable can improve agricultural production, it must be made available to the public. Selection (B) is the correct answer. Answers such as (B) often cause students much difficulty. Students may hesitate to mark such a clear and simple answer because they believe they must have missed something. Sometimes they have. But sometimes the simple answer is the correct answer. Caution: Students should attempt to distinguish the simple answer from the simplistic answer. While the simple answer may more often be the correct answer over a complex answer, rarely is the simplistic answer correct. Don't be misled by answer (C). Even though the argument supports (C), the question asks for a statement that is inferred from the passage. Thus, the answer must go beyond what is divulged in the passage.

6. The question asks us to find the category that **COULD NOT APPLY** to the plant. So if the passage could describe the high-bearing pepper plant, then it is not the correct choice.
- (A) No. If the pepper plant has already produced 225 peppers and is still producing, it is not a normal pepper plant. So the high-bearing plant could be an abnormal pepper grown under ideal conditions.
- (B) Yes. The high producing plant cannot be a normal pepper plant, even one that went into a dormancy stage and then was revived. The

passage tells us that normal plants cannot produce more than 200 peppers, even those that go through a dormancy period. We know that the plant will “start producing peppers where it left off” and produce no more than 200 peppers.

(C) No. We know from the passage that no normal pepper plant can produce more than 200 peppers. If the plant is abnormal in any way, it cannot be a normal plant. So the high-bearing plant could be an abnormal plant grown organically.

(D) No. This plant was grown from the seed of an abnormal plant, so it could have produced the abnormal results reported.

(E) No. Again, we know that a plant that produces more than 200 peppers is abnormal. Therefore, the high-bearing plant could be an abnormal plant grown in the lab without soil.

7. (A) **Yes.** According to the passage, the practice of slavery began much sooner than laws were enacted to protect its practice. Thus, to argue that laws needed to be in place *first* is to ignore historical fact.
- (B) No. The passage is concerned with the importation of African slaves and when laws were first enacted concerning slavery. We don't know the timing of slavery laws relative to when Europeans enslaved native Indian populations, so this statement is not supported by the passage.
- (C) No. Whether or not slavery was practiced elsewhere prior to the importation of African slaves is irrelevant to the question—which statement is supported by the passage with respect to the institution of slavery in the New World?
- (D) No. This statement is directly contradicted by the passage. The facts set forth in the passage prove just the opposite—that slavery was practiced long before a supportive legal system developed.
- (E) No. Again, this statement is irrelevant to the question. The reasons slavery developed in the New World are not significant to the timing of a legal system supportive of slavery.
8. The argument states that two criteria must be met before the Brown Country Club will accept a person:
- I. He or she must have a net worth of over ten million dollars.
- II. He or she must not have any connections to the entertainment industry.
- Since the Chase was accepted as a member, he must not have any connections to the entertainment industry and therefore could not have financed a Hollywood movie. The answer is (E).
9. This is a straightforward question. The passage uses the example of the clock to illustrate how new technologies can both liberate us, by increasing productivity and therefore increasing the range of choices, and enslave us, “I have to be there by 1:30 p.m. sharp.” The answer is (A).
10. (A) No. This is mere speculation.
- (B) **Yes.** Although the government's loss of tax revenues should be small, the passage states “*similar tax-incentive programs left the overall level of personal savings unchanged.*”
- (C) No. The passage implies that there would be little or no increase in personal savings. The example in the passage shows that a tax incentive program with a small loss in tax revenues did not increase personal savings, so a tax incentive program with a large loss in tax revenues would probably have a similar result.
- (D) No. The claim that the economy will be endangered is too strong. Besides the passage does not argue against increasing personal savings, just that the given tax incentive program will fail to increase savings as similar ones have failed in the past.

(E) No. This claim is too broad. The passage does not imply that the government has no means of influencing the savings rate, just that certain tax incentive programs have no effect on savings rates.

likely but not necessary assumption. Finally, choice (D) is contradicted by the passage.

11. If the various levels of government collect a smaller share of the GNP through taxes, then the average taxpayer keeps a larger share. The answer is (C).

Be careful of choice (A): it commits an error by failing to distinguish between percentage and amount. While the percentage share of taxes has decreased, the overall amount of tax revenue could have increased if the GNP is larger than it was ten years ago.

The other choices cannot be logically inferred from the passage. Each choice offers a possible cause or effect of the tax reduction, but none of these must occur.

12. This question is straightforward once you focus on the relevant information. If the chance of injury was 1 per 300 flights in 1970 and 1 per 1000 flights in 1990, then vacationers were less likely to be injured in a plane accident in 1990 than in 1970. The answer is (E).

Choices (A) and (B) make the error of comparing numbers of vacationers injured when the passage only gives percentages. Without knowing how many vacationers there were in each year (or at least a ratio), we cannot determine which year contained a greater number of injuries. Choice (C) seems to assume that vacationers who did not travel by plane traveled by car instead—a