

Inference

1. The free press is one of the fundamental parts of a democratic society, since it acts both to disseminate information and to express dissent. If a democracy is to remain viable, its press must remain free.

Which one of the following conclusions can most logically be drawn from the passage above?

- (A) If a society has a free press, it is a democracy.
- (B) Only a free press acts to disseminate information and to express dissent.
- (C) A democratic society can place no restrictions on the expression of dissent.
- (D) If a society does not have a free press, it does not have a viable democracy.
- (E) A democracy that is not viable does not have a free press.

2. A prestigious golf association hosts a special tournament every year over the Labor Day weekend. It accepts into the tournament only those golfers who pay the entry fee by June 1 and who have won a major tournament during the previous calendar year. Fred Smith, a successful professional golfer for many years, paid the entry fee by June 1 to be in the Labor Day tournament. The golf association accepted Smith to play in the tournament.

Which one of the following conclusions flows logically from the paragraph?

- (A) Smith won a major golf tournament the previous calendar year.
- (B) Smith has played in the Labor Day tournament in previous years.
- (C) Smith is well known for his professional golfing career.
- (D) The golf association asked Smith to enter the tournament.
- (E) Television coverage of the Labor Day tournament will focus on Smith's participation.

3. The math professor's goals for classroom honesty and accurate student assessment were founded upon his belief that the fear of punishment and corresponding loss of privileges would make students think twice or even three times before cheating on exams, thus virtually eliminating cheating in his classroom. In order for this atmosphere to prevail, the students had to believe that the consequences for cheating were severe and that the professor had the means to discover cheaters and enforce the punishment against them. If the statements contained in the preceding passage are true, which one of the following can be properly inferred?
- (A) A student would only be deterred from cheating if he knew he would be discovered and punished.
 - (B) A student will not cheat on an exam if he feels he is well prepared for the exam.
 - (C) A student who cheats on an exam believes that he will not be able to pass the exam without cheating.
 - (D) If the professor wants to achieve his goals, he should make his students aware of his policy on cheating and the consequences that would befall those who cheat on his exams.
 - (E) If the professor wants never to have an incident of cheating in his classroom, his policy on cheating must be stronger than any other professor's policy on cheating.
4. The survival of the publishing industry depends upon the existence of a public who will buy the printed word in the form of newspapers, books and magazines. Over the past several years, however, the advance of electronic media, particularly CD-ROMs, online computer services, and the Internet, has made information available to the public electronically without the need for printed materials. As the availability of electronic media increases and as it is more easily accessible, the public has less need for printed materials. Which one of the following statements flows logically from the passage?
- (A) Teachers and libraries must promote the importance of books and other written materials.
 - (B) The publishing industry is threatened by the advance of the computer information age.
 - (C) Every member of the public has a duty to become informed about the Internet.
 - (D) Tabloids will most successfully compete with computers.
 - (E) The publishing industry will survive if the educated members of the public continue to purchase written materials.

5. The Agricultural Board of a western European country determines when and under what conditions new food-producing plants and seeds can be sold to the public. As a result, the Agricultural Board plays an important part in improving agricultural production in western Europe. Individual farmers and farm research centers are involved in the time-consuming task of discovering and testing new varieties of fruits and vegetables. But the Agricultural Board is responsible for verifying the qualities of the new products and for approving their sale and distribution to the public. New plants and seeds are not available to improve agricultural production until after they have been approved by the Agricultural Board. The passage implies which one of the following statements?
- (A) The Agricultural Board requires that new varieties of fruits and vegetables be regulated.
 - (B) Before new varieties of fruits and vegetables are made available to the public, they do not improve agricultural production.
 - (C) Researchers who develop new varieties of fruits and vegetables are responsible for the long period of time before such products are released to the public, not the Agricultural Board.
 - (D) The Agricultural Board should work more closely with farm research centers to guarantee the quality of new fruit and vegetable varieties.
 - (E) If the discovery of a new variety of apple has progressed from the research center to the public, it will improve agricultural production.
6. Scientists used to think that pepper plants had the ability to produce an unlimited number of peppers. So long as the plant was properly fertilized and pollinated, and temperature, water and sunlight controlled, they believed pepper plants would continue to produce indefinitely. However, scientists have now learned that a pepper plant will not produce more than 200 peppers in its lifetime. If a pepper plant goes dormant due to a deficiency of light or water, for example, when reinvigorated, it will start producing peppers where it left off. But a normal pepper plant will produce no more than 200 peppers. Assume the information in the passage is true, and assume that a pepper plant has been discovered that has produced 225 peppers and is still producing. If so, the still-producing pepper plant CANNOT fit which one of the following categories?
- (A) An abnormal pepper plant flourishing under ideal temperature, humidity, water and light conditions.
 - (B) A normal pepper plant that went into a dormancy stage and then was revived.
 - (C) An abnormal pepper plant grown organically.
 - (D) A normal pepper plant grown from the seed of an abnormal pepper plant.
 - (E) A abnormal pepper plant grown in the lab without soil.

7. The first African slaves were brought to the Americas in the early 1600s, where their labor was used primarily for agricultural and household purposes. The institution of slavery in the New World presupposes not only the existence of slaves and owners, but also a system of laws in place which recognized and protected the practice of slavery. However, laws were not enacted, for example, declaring slaves the personal property of their owners and imposing punishments upon those who aided slaves in escape, until many years later.

If the sentences in the passage above are true, then they support which one of the following statements?

- (A) Arguing that laws needed to be enacted recognizing and protecting the institution of slavery before the practice of slavery could have existed in the New World is to ignore historical fact.
- (B) Prior to 1700, some of the Europeans who came to the New World enslaved native Indian populations.
- (C) Slavery was practiced in many parts of the world before Africans were first brought to the New World as slaves.
- (D) The prior existence of a supportive legal system is needed before an institutional practice can develop.
- (E) One of the reasons slavery developed in the New World was the tremendous need for manual labor.

8. To be accepted as a member at the Brown Country Club, one must have a net worth of over ten million dollars and must not have any connections to the entertainment industry. Robert Chase, the publishing magnate, has a net worth of 5 billion dollars and has been accepted as a member at the Brown Country Club.

Given the statements above, which one of the following conclusions must be true?

- (A) Chase's membership was preapproved.
- (B) Chase does not know anyone who has connections to the entertainment industry.
- (C) Chase's ex-business partner is a major concert promoter, has a net worth of 100 million dollars, and is a member of the Brown Country Club.
- (D) Chase's brother, who has also petitioned for membership at Brown, has a net worth of 10 billion dollars and considers it beneath his dignity to associate with anyone in the entertainment industry. Hence, his petition will be accepted.
- (E) Chase has not financed any Hollywood movies.

9. When machines are invented and technologies are developed, they alter the range of choices open to us. The clock, for example, made possible the synchronization of human affairs, which resulted in an increase in productivity. At the same time that the clock opened up some avenues, it closed others. It has become harder and harder to live except by the clock, so that now people have no choice in the matter at all.

Which one of the following propositions is best illustrated by the example presented in the passage?

- (A) New machines and technologies can enslave as well as liberate us.
 - (B) People should make a concerted effort to free themselves from the clock.
 - (C) Some new machines and technologies bring no improvement to our lives.
 - (D) The increase in productivity was not worth our dependence on the clock.
 - (E) Most new machines and technologies make our lives more synchronized and productive.
10. Economist: Some policymakers believe that our country's continued economic growth requires a higher level of personal savings than we currently have. A recent legislative proposal would allow individuals to set up savings accounts in which interest earned would be exempt from taxes until money is withdrawn from the account. Backers of this proposal claim that its implementation would increase

the amount of money available for banks to loan at a relatively small cost to the government in lost tax revenues. Yet, when similar tax-incentive programs were tried in the past, virtually all of the money invested through them was diverted from other personal savings, and the overall level of personal savings was unchanged.

The passage as a whole provides the most support for which one of the following conclusions?

- (A) Backers of the tax-incentive proposal undoubtedly have some motive other than their expressed aim of increasing the amount of money available for banks to loan.
- (B) The proposed tax incentive is unlikely to attract enough additional money into personal savings accounts to make up for the attendant loss in tax revenues.
- (C) A tax-incentive program that resulted in substantial loss of tax revenues would be likely to generate a large increase in personal savings.
- (D) The economy will be in danger unless some alternative to increased personal savings can be found to stimulate growth.
- (E) The government has no effective means of influencing the amount of money that people are willing to put into savings accounts.

11. Ten years ago, the total share of federal, state, and local taxes was 23 percent of the nation's Gross National Product. Now, that share has decreased to 21 percent.

Which one of the following can be properly inferred from the facts given above?

- (A) The total amount of federal, state, and local taxes paid now is less than the amount paid ten years ago.
- (B) On average, people now have a better standard of living than they did ten years ago.
- (C) The average taxpayer keeps a greater percentage of income for his own use than he did ten years ago.
- (D) Federal, state, and local governments have reduced the level of services they offer to constituents.
- (E) Inefficiency and fraud have been reduced in government services.

12. In 1970, only 10 percent of vacationers traveled by airplanes to their destination. By 1990, that number had increased to 35 percent. Now, in 1970 the risk of being injured in an airline accident was 1 chance per 300 flights. Due to changes in aircraft design, this risk decreased to 1 chance per 1000 flights by 1990.

Which of the following can be properly inferred from the passage?

- (A) More vacationers were injured in airplane accidents in 1970 compared to 1990.
- (B) More vacationers were injured in airplane accidents in 1990 compared to 1970.
- (C) More vacationers traveled by car in 1970 than in 1990.
- (D) Vacationers were less likely to be injured in a plane accident in 1970 compared to 1990.
- (E) Vacationers were less likely to be injured in a plane accident in 1990 compared to 1970.