

**Parallel Flaw**

1. A lawyer who does not return phone calls from her clients cannot be a skillful, experienced lawyer. I feel comfortable with the skill and experience of my attorney because she returns all of my phone calls, even when she is busy.

Which of the following selections presents a reasoning pattern most similar to the flawed pattern presented in the passage?

- (A) Anyone who plays on a baseball team has had to make sacrifices for the good of the team. Ted is used to making sacrifices, so he might play on a baseball team.
- (B) Anyone who is opposed to the city bond issue has not received the city's information packet on the issue. Sandy says she will vote against the city bond issue, so she hasn't received the city information packet.
- (C) No one who likes science fiction movies will miss seeing the second release of the Star Wars trilogy in movie theaters. Jimmy loves the Star Wars movies, but he did not see the second movie of the trilogy when it was released recently.
- (D) A school-age child who spends three afternoons a week at gymnastics practice does not have a proper balance between school work and gymnastics. Tom spends only one afternoon per week at gymnastics practice, so he has a proper balance between school and gymnastics.
- (E) A person who is jumpy and impatient will not work well with animals. Janice is impatient, so she would not be a good animal trainer.

2. Heavy snow fall in the Sierra Nevada Mountains is usually preceded by subzero temperatures in northwestern Canada. When snow fall is high in Canada's northwestern provinces, the same storm typically produces heavy snows in the Sierra Nevadas. Therefore, subzero temperatures cause winter snow storms to rebuild as they move down from Canada to the Sierra Nevadas.

Which selection contains the same type flaw as that contained in the passage above?

- (A) Professional golfers tend to have lean builds. Therefore, professional golfers typically have healthy eating habits.
- (B) People tend to write larger when they use wide-ruled notebook paper than when they use narrow-ruled paper. Therefore, people write more neatly on the wide-ruled paper.
- (C) Students who participate in debate in high school often end up as trial lawyers. Therefore, participating in high school debate must somehow influence students to attend law school.
- (D) During the hottest part of the day, song birds do not visit unshaded feeders. Therefore, song birds must visit the feeders before dawn.
- (E) The kind of shows on Broadway can impact the type of shows premiered during new television seasons. Therefore, if the new Broadway shows feature aliens as characters in their productions, then the new television shows will also feature alien characters.

3. The great medieval universities had no administrators, yet they endured for centuries. Our university has a huge administrative staff, and we are in serious financial difficulties. Therefore, we should abolish the positions and salaries of the administrators to ensure the longevity of the university.

Which one of the following arguments contains flawed reasoning that most closely parallels the flawed reasoning in the argument above?

- (A) No airplane had jet engines before 1940, yet airplanes had been flying since 1903. Therefore, jet engines are not necessary for the operation of airplanes.
- (B) The novelist's stories began to be accepted for publication soon after she started using a computer to write them. You have been having trouble getting your stories accepted for publication, and you do not use a computer. To make sure your stories are accepted for publication, then, you should write them with the aid of a computer.
- (C) After doctors began using antibiotics, the number of infections among patients dropped drastically. Now, however, resistant strains of bacteria cannot be controlled by standard antibiotics. Therefore, new methods of control are needed.
- (D) A bicycle should not be ridden without a helmet. Since a good helmet can save the rider's life, a helmet should be considered the most important piece of bicycling equipment.
- (E) The great cities of the ancient world were mostly built along waterways. Archaeologists searching for the remains of such cities should therefore try to

determine where major rivers used to run.

4. In the game of basketball, scoring a three-point shot is a skill that only those with a soft shooting touch can develop. Wilt Chamberlain, however, was a great player, so even though he did not have a soft shooting touch he would have excelled at scoring three point shots.

Which one of the following contains a flaw that most closely parallels the flaw contained in the passage?

- (A) Eighty percent of the freshmen at Berkeley go on to get a bachelor's degree. David is a freshman at Berkeley, so he will probably complete his studies and receive a bachelor's degree.
- (B) If the police don't act immediately to quell the disturbance, it will escalate into a riot. However, since the police are understaffed, there will be a riot.
- (C) The meek shall inherit the earth. Susie received an inheritance from her grandfather, so she must be meek.
- (D) During the Vietnam War, the powerful had to serve along with the poor. However, Stevens' father was a federal judge, so Stevens was able to get a draft deferment.
- (E) All dolphins are mammals and all mammals breathe air. Therefore, all mammals that breathe air are dolphins.

5. Democracy is the best form of government yet created. Therefore, we must be vigilant in its defense; that is, we must be prepared to defend the right to freedom. Because this right is fundamental to any progressive form of government, it is clear that democracy is better than any other form of government.

Which one of the following illustrates the same flawed reasoning as found in the passage?

- (A) I never get a headache when I eat only Chinese food, nor when I drink only wine. But when I eat Chinese food and drink wine, I get a headache. So the combination of the two must be the cause of my headaches.
- (B) The two times I have gone to that restaurant something bad has happened. The first time the waiter dropped a glass and it shattered all over the table. And after the second time I went there, I got sick. So why should I go there again—something bad will just happen again.
- (C) I would much rather live a life dedicated to helping my fellow man than one dedicated to gaining material possessions and seeing my fellow man as a competitor. At the end of each day, the satisfaction of having helped people is infinitely greater than the satisfaction of having achieved something material.
- (D) I'm obsessed with volleyball; that's why I play it constantly. I train seven days a week, and I enter every tournament. Since I'm always playing it, I must be obsessed with it.
- (E) In my academic studies, I have repeatedly changed majors. I

decide to major in each new subject that I'm introduced to. Just as a bee lights from one flower to the next, tasting the nectar of each, I jump from one subject to the next getting just a taste of each.

6. Genevieve: Increasing costs have led commercial airlines to cut back on airplane maintenance. Also, reductions in public spending have led to air traffic control centers being underfunded and understaffed. For these and other reasons it is becoming quite unsafe to fly, and so one should avoid doing it.

Harold: Your reasoning may be sound, but I can hardly accept your conclusion when you yourself have recently been flying on commercial airlines even more than before.

Which one of the following relies on a questionable technique most similar to that used in Harold's reply to Genevieve?

- (A) David says that the new film is not very good, but he has not seen it himself, so I don't accept his opinion.
- (B) A long time ago Maria showed me a great way to cook lamb, but for medical reasons she no longer eats red meat, so I'll cook something else for dinner tonight.
- (C) Susan has been trying to persuade me to go rock climbing with her, claiming that it's quite safe, but last week she fell and broke her collarbone, so I don't believe her.
- (D) Pat has shown me research that proves that eating raw green vegetables is very beneficial and that one should eat them daily, but I don't believe it, since she hardly ever eats raw green vegetables.
- (E) Gabriel has all the qualifications we have specified for the job and has much relevant work experience, but I don't believe we should hire him, because when he worked in a similar position before his performance was mediocre.