

Parallel Reasoning

1. When a region is in a drought, the water level of rivers and streams is seriously reduced. When water levels are down, food is also scarce for wildlife. Therefore, if food is not scarce for wildlife, then the region is not in a drought.

In which one of the following selections does the reasoning most closely follow the reasoning in the above passage?

- (A) If the dirty clothes hamper is full, the sock drawer is empty, and if the sock drawer is empty, the dirty clothes hamper is full, so if the sock drawer is not empty, the clothes hamper is not full.
- (B) If the temperature falls below freezing, the petunias will die, and if the petunias die, they will not flower any more, so if the petunias still produce flowers, the temperature is not below freezing.
- (C) If raccoons bear live young, they must be mammals, so if they are amphibians, they must lay eggs to reproduce, if they reproduce at all.
- (D) If you want to fix an omelet, you will have to use six eggs, and you will have no eggs left for pancakes, so if you make the omelet, you won't be able to fix pancakes.
- (E) If earth scientists are correct, global temperatures are warming, and if the earth's temperature increases, ocean levels will rise, so if ocean levels rise, earth scientists were correct.

2. If you make good grades in high school, you will get into a good college. If you get into a good college, you will find a good job. So, if you make good grades in high school, you will find a good job.

Which one of the following selections most closely follows the reasoning in the passage?

- (A) If you brush your teeth twice every day, you will keep your teeth clean. If you keep your teeth clean, you will not get cavities. So, if you brush your teeth twice every day, you will have low dental bills.
- (B) If you vacuum your room on Fridays, it will stay clean. If your room stays clean, you can invite your friends over. So, if you invite your friends over, your room will stay clean.
- (C) If you plant your garden in healthy soil, your vegetable plants will grow well. If your vegetable plants grow well, you will have a high vegetable yield. So, if you plant your garden in healthy soil, you will have a high vegetable yield.
- (D) If you invest in the stock market, you are optimistic that the market will go up. If you have a good attitude about things in general, then you are optimistic that the market will go up. So, if you invest in the market, you have a good attitude about things in general.
- (E) If you study hard for the math exam, you will make an A on the exam. If you study hard for the math exam, you will not get enough sleep. So if you make an A on the math exam, you will not get enough sleep.

3. People who do well in the sled pull competition have tremendous upper body strength. Caleb has tremendous upper body strength. Therefore, Caleb performed well in the sled pull competition.

Which one of the following contains the same reasoning that is presented in the passage?

- (A) People who are anemic cannot donate blood. Mary donates blood regularly. Therefore, she must not be anemic.
- (B) People who swim competitively are thin and muscular. Ben is thin and muscular. Therefore, Ben is a competitive swimmer.
- (C) People who volunteer at the trauma center must handle being on their feet all day. Casey is a frequent volunteer at the trauma center. Therefore, he must handle being on his feet all day.
- (D) People who are overly sensitive to the cold cannot work at the Arctic substation. John is overly sensitive to the cold. Therefore John cannot work at the Arctic substation.
- (E) People who have ulcers cannot eat spicy hot food. Kevin has recurrent ulcers. Therefore Kevin is on a bland diet.

4. If the City Parks Department receives the same allocation in next year's municipal budget, it is expected to raise admission fees to the indoor recreation center by fifty cents. If the City Parks Department announces a higher admission fee increase, then its budget allocation for next year must have been reduced.

Which of the following selections expresses a reasoning pattern most similar to the pattern expressed in the passage?

- (A) If the mountains continue to receive snow at the rate experienced for the past two

weeks, ski areas would have a record snow base this winter. Instead, snow fall diminished, and ski areas have a normal ski base this winter.

- (B) If urban neighborhoods wish to reduce crime in their neighborhoods, they should implement neighborhood crime watch programs. If neighborhoods experience higher burglary and theft rates, it must mean that they have not have implemented crime watch programs.
- (C) If the price of raw plastic pellets remains the same, companies that manufacture molded plastic parts such as fishing bobbers can be expected to keep their wholesale prices at last year's levels. Thus, if these wholesalers raise their prices on fishing bobbers, it will be because raw material costs increased.
- (D) If major league baseball teams wish to increase attendance at home games, they should not increase their ticket prices. If they do increase ticket prices, they should be expected to provide better seating and concessions at the stadiums.
- (E) If television networks want to broadcast quality programming, they should recruit programs with good writers and actors. Thus, if the networks recruit poorly written and poorly acted programs, it is likely their television viewership will decline.

5. If the rebels truly want a political settlement, they will stop shelling the Capitol. They did stop shelling the Capitol. Hence, the rebels sincerely want peace.
Which one of the following uses reasoning that is most similar to that used in the above argument?
- (A) There's a cat in this house. There must be, because I'm allergic to cats; and I just sneezed.
 - (B) In order for a bill to pass, it must be supported by the President. The Crime Bill is not being supported by the President. Therefore, it will not pass.
 - (C) The flood of refugees will continue unless the U.N. sends in peace keepers. The U.N. has announced that peace-keeping troops will not be sent, so the flood of refugees will continue.
 - (D) Every time the United States attempts to mediate between two warring parties, it becomes the target of both. So the same will occur with the civil war in Girunda.
 - (E) If you want dessert, you must eat your vegetables. You did not eat your vegetables, so there will be no dessert for you.
6. If Joan was growing marijuana plants in her home, she would not allow police investigators to search her home without a warrant. As a result, allowing the police to search her home without a warrant shows that Joan does not grow marijuana plants in her home.
Which one of the following contains an argument logically most similar to the argument presented in the passage?
- (A) If Justin were playing golf at the city golf course, he would not be home until dinner. Therefore, the fact that he gets home by mid-afternoon shows that he is not playing golf at the city course.
 - (B) If Paul were stingy, he would not buy Dorian a birthday present. Therefore, Paul's buying Francis a birthday present shows that he is stingy.
 - (C) If Jason were over 30, he would not want to listen to rap music. Therefore, the fact that Jason does not like to listen to rap music shows that he is over 30.
 - (D) If Sandra were a good seamstress, she would not buy cheap fabric. Therefore, the fact that Sandra is not a good seamstress shows that she bought cheap fabric.
 - (E) If Kevin were hungry, he would not skip breakfast. Therefore, the fact that Kevin is hungry shows that he did not skip breakfast.
7. Of course Steve supports government sponsorship of the arts. He's an artist.
Which one of the following uses reasoning that is most similar to the above argument?
- (A) Of course if a person lies to me, I will never trust that person again.
 - (B) Conservatives in the past have prevented ratification of any nuclear arms limitation treaties with the Soviet Union (or Russia), so they will prevent the ratification of the current treaty.
 - (C) Mr. Sullivan is the police commissioner, so it stands to reason that he would support the NRA's position on gun control.
 - (D) Following her conscience, Congresswoman Martinez voted against the death penalty, in spite of the fact that she knew it would doom her chances for reelection.
 - (E) You're in no position to criticize me for avoiding paying my fair share of taxes. You don't even pay your employees a fair wage.

8. Although all birds have feathers and all birds have wings, some birds do not fly. For example, penguins and ostriches use their wings to move in a different way from other birds. Penguins use their wings only to swim under water at high speeds. Ostriches use their wings only to run with the wind by lifting them as if they were sails.

Which one of the following is most parallel in its reasoning to the argument above?

- (A) Ancient philosophers tried to explain not how the world functions but why it functions. In contrast, most contemporary biologists seek comprehensive theories of how organisms function, but many refuse to speculate about purpose.
- (B) Some chairs are used only as decorations, and other chairs are used only to tame lions. Therefore, not all chairs are used for sitting in spite of the fact that all chairs have a seat and some support such as legs.
- (C) Some musicians in a symphony orchestra play the violin, and others play the viola, but these are both in the same category of musical instruments, namely string instruments.
- (D) All cars have similar drive mechanisms, but some cars derive their power from solar energy, whereas others burn gasoline. Thus, solar-powered cars are less efficient than gasoline-powered ones.

- (E) Sailing ships move in a different way from steamships. Both sailing ships and steamships navigate over water, but only sailing ships use sails to move over the surface.

9. Here-and-There Import Company has always shown a quarterly loss whenever the value of the dollar falls 7% or more against the yen in the previous fiscal quarter. The company had a loss this quarter. Therefore, the dollar must have fallen at least 7% against the yen last quarter.

Which of the following exhibits a parallel pattern of reasoning as the argument above?

- (A) Every Fourth of July weekend, the police strictly enforce parking regulations. I just received a parking ticket. Therefore, today must be July 4th.
- (B) Whenever the circus comes to town, schoolchildren become very hard to control. Since little Susie is behaving very properly, the circus must not be in town.
- (C) C & D bakery shows a profit whenever the local factory hires overtime workers. Because the factory has hired overtime workers, C & D bakery will show a profit.
- (D) Whenever it has been sunny, Biff has gone to the beach. Therefore it must be sunny, because Biff has just left for the beach.
- (E) Everybody who is somebody went to the awards banquet. Since Steve did not go to the awards banquet, he must not be anybody.