

**Point at Issue**

1.

Judy: Traditionally, Republican administrations have supported free trade. But the President must veto the North American Free Trade Act because it will drain away American jobs to Mexico and lead to wholesale exploitation of the Mexican workers by international conglomerates.

Tina: I disagree. Exploitation of workers is the essence of any economic system just like the exploitation of natural resources.

Judy and Tina will not be able to settle their argument unless they

- (A) explain their opinions in more detail
- (B) ask an expert on international trade to decide who is correct
- (C) decide whose conclusion is true but irrelevant
- (D) decide whose conclusion is based on a questionable premise
- (E) define a critical word

2.

Jones: Prehistoric wooden tools found in South America have been dated to 13,000 years ago. Although scientists attribute these tools to peoples whose ancestors first crossed into the Americas from Siberia to Alaska, this cannot be correct. In order to have reached a site so far south, these peoples must have been migrating southward well before 13,000 years ago. However, no such tools dating to before 13,000 years ago have been found anywhere between Alaska and South America.

Smith: Your evidence is inconclusive.

Those tools were found in peat bogs, which are rare in the Americas. Wooden tools in soils other than peat bogs usually decompose within only a few years.

The point at issue between Jones and Smith is

- (A) whether all prehistoric tools that are 13,000 years or older were made of wood
- (B) whether the scientists' attribution of tools could be correct in light of Jones's evidence
- (C) whether the dating of the wooden tools by the scientists could be correct
- (D) how long ago the peoples who crossed into the Americas from Siberia to Alaska first did so
- (E) whether Smith's evidence entails that the wooden tools have been dated correctly

3.

Derek: We must exploit available resources in developing effective anticancer drugs such as the one made from mature Pacific yew trees. Although the yew population might be threatened, the trees should be harvested now, since an effective synthetic version of the yew's anticancer chemical could take years to develop.

Lola: Not only are mature yews very rare, but most are located in areas where logging is prohibited to protect the habitat of the endangered spotted owl. Despite our eagerness to take advantage of a new medical breakthrough, we should wait for a synthetic drug rather than threaten the survival of both the yew and the owl, which could have far-reaching consequences for an entire ecosystem.

Which one of the following is the main point at issue between Lola and Derek?

- (A) whether the harvesting of available Pacific yews would have far-reaching environmental repercussions
- (B) whether the drugs that are effective against potentially deadly diseases should be based on synthetic rather than naturally occurring chemicals
- (C) whether it is justifiable to wait until a synthetic drug can be developed when the capacity for producing the yew-derived drug already exists
- (D) the extent of the environmental disaster that would result if both the Pacific yew and the spotted owl were to become extinct

- (E) whether environmental considerations should ever have any weight when human lives are at stake

4.

Ann: All the campers at Camp Winnehatchee go to Tri-Cities High School.

Bill: That's not true. Some Tri-Cities students are campers at Camp Lakemont.

Bill's answer can be best explained on the assumption that he has interpreted Ann's remark to mean that

- (A) most of the campers at Camp Lakemont come from high schools other than Tri-Cities
- (B) most Tri-Cities High School students are campers at Camp Winnehatchee
- (C) some Tri-Cities High School students have withdrawn from Camp Lakemont
- (D) all Tri-Cities High School students attend summer camp
- (E) only campers at Camp Winnehatchee are students at Tri-Cities High School

5.

Alia: Hawthorne admits that he has influence with high government officials. He further admits that he sold that influence to an environmental interest group. There can be no justification for this kind of unethical behavior.

Martha: I disagree that he was unethical. The group that retained Hawthorne's services is dedicated to the cause of preventing water pollution. So, in using his influence to benefit this group, Hawthorne also benefited the public.

Alia and Martha disagree on whether

- (A) the meaning of ethical behavior has changed over time
- (B) the consequences of Hawthorne's behavior can ethically justify that behavior
- (C) the standards for judging ethical behavior can be imposed on Hawthorne by another
- (D) the meaning of ethical behavior is the same in a public situation as in a private one

- (E) the definition of ethical behavior is rooted in philosophy or religion

This is a straightforward question. Alia says there is no justification for selling influence. Martha says there is a justification for selling influence; namely, if its effects benefit society. They disagree on whether the ends justify the means. The answer is (B).

6.

Harry: Airlines have made it possible for anyone to travel around the world in much less time than was formerly possible.

Judith: That is not true. Many flights are too expensive for all but the rich.

Judith's response shows that she interprets Harry's statement to imply that

- (A) the majority of people are rich
- (B) everyone has an equal right to experience world travel
- (C) world travel is only possible via routes serviced by airlines
- (D) most forms of world travel are not affordable for most people
- (E) anyone can afford to travel long distances by air