

Practice Test on Chapters 10–12

[Here are the instructions that will be on the real test.] This test has 24 questions. They are all equally weighted. You can mark up the questions, but you must write your answers to all of the questions in the blanks below. No credit will be awarded for answers written below the following two rows of blanks.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24

- When a person makes an inductive generalization, is the sample a part of the class about which the person is generalizing?
(A) yes
(B) no
- When a person makes an analogical argument, the larger the number of instances in the first term of the analogy,
(A) the stronger the argument is
(B) the weaker the argument is
(C) the more variety there is among the instances
(D) the more similar the instances are to the target
- Suppose someone says that although Japanese cars are reputed to be the most reliable cars in the world, that is surely incorrect, because he (the speaker) had to have his new Toyota repaired five times within the first year that he owned it. The sample here is
(A) Japanese cars
(B) non-Japanese cars
(C) the most reliable cars in the world
(D) the speaker's new Toyota
- The target is
(A) Japanese cars
(B) non-Japanese cars
(C) the most reliable cars in the world
(D) the speaker's new Toyota
- This is an example of
(A) hasty generalizing
(B) biased generalizing
(C) the law of large numbers
(D) the gambler's fallacy
- Suppose that Juanita has taken six courses at Valley Community College, and she has a grade average of B so far. All of the courses she has taken have been in sociology and psychology. She's thinking of enrolling in another course next term, and she expects to make at least a B in whatever she takes. If we don't know yet what subject she will take, would her argument be stronger, weaker, or neither if her previous six courses had been in four different subjects rather than two?
(A) stronger
(B) weaker
(C) neither
- Would Juanita's argument be stronger, weaker, or neither if we knew that the new course will be in psychology?
(A) stronger
(B) weaker
(C) neither
- There are 36 ways that a pair of dice can come up. Only one of them produces a total of 2—namely, 1 and 1, or "snake eyes." Suppose that the dice have been rolled 40 times and "snake eyes" still has not appeared. The gambler's fallacy is the failure to realize that which of the following is true?
(A) In 41 rolls of the dice, "snake eyes" may not come up at all.
(B) "Snake eyes" is no more likely to appear on the 41st roll of the dice than on any previous roll.
(C) The more times the dice are rolled, the closer to 1-in-36 will be the occurrence of "snake eyes."
(D) The more times the dice are rolled, the smaller the percentage of "snake eyes" that will occur.

For each of the next three questions, identify the claim argument as relying primarily on (A) relevant-difference reasoning or (B) common-thread reasoning.

- Sharon has observed that her teacher sometimes seems to be in a bad mood and speculates why. "Well," she thinks, "it seems to happen only when people haven't done their assignments. That must be it."

10. Cheryl and her new acquaintance, Ted, have just walked into Target when in comes her steady boyfriend, Lemmy. “Oh, for crying out loud,” Cheryl thinks. “Why would he come into Target, of all places? I must be being punished for something I did, and I know what.”

11. “Have you noticed how yellow the Doerrs’s lawn has gotten since they started fertilizing it? Must be terrible fertilizer, to make it turn yellow like that.”

For each of the next three questions, assume that the given causal claim is mistaken, and identify which kind of mistake is most likely: (A) possible coincidence, (B) reversed causation, or (C) a case in which the indicated cause and stated effect both result from some third thing.

12. “February 2 is Groundhog Day. If the groundhog sees his shadow, there’ll be six more weeks of winter. If he doesn’t, spring is right around the corner.”

Now start using the second row of answer blanks.

13. “I’d wash the car but for the fact that we don’t need any more rain.”

14. “Top executives wear expensive clothes and drive nice cars. That must be the key to success.”

For each of the next two questions, identify the most significant problem with the causal claim it contains: (A) lack of testability, (B) circularity, (C) vagueness, or (D) conflicts with well-established theory.

15. “I wonder what made me choose Budweiser. I’ve probably been subjected to subliminal advertising.”

16. “Why does Greg do badly in school? He does badly because he has a bad approach.”

17. Is the following claim a value judgment? “Kelly did the right thing when he turned in the wallet he found.”

- (A) yes
- (B) no

18. Is the following claim a moral value judgment? “Everybody should be as fair as Mario tries to be.”

- (A) yes
- (B) no

19. Which of the following is a general moral principle that would make the following argument valid? “John has done something terribly wrong. He copied all of the equations on the take-home exam from Tony’s paper and turned them in as his own.”

- (A) Professors should not assign take-home exams.
- (B) When a professor assigns a take-home exam, he is she is making cheating more likely.
- (C) A person ought not to copy the work of others.
- (D) People ought to keep other people from copying their work.

20. Suppose Marina is the principal support for one of her sons at college, whereas she provides only a small portion of the financial support of her other son at college, since the other son won a large scholarship. Which of the following is the best analysis of this situation?

- (A) The difference in Marina’s treatment of her two sons is clearly consistent.
- (B) The difference in Marina’s treatment of her two sons is consistent if whether a son gets admitted to college can make two sons different from one another in a relevant way.
- (C) The difference in Marina’s treatment of her two sons is consistent if whether a son gets a scholarship can make two sons different from one another in a relevant way.
- (D) The difference in Marina’s treatment of her two sons is not consistent.

21. Consider the claim that prostitution should be illegal because it is wrong to have sex with other people in exchange for money. Which approach the justification of laws would this claim exemplify?

- (A) legal moralism
- (B) the harm principle
- (C) legal paternalism
- (D) the offense principle

22. Do defenders of the harm principle usually believe that it is only one among several acceptable justifications for laws forbidding conduct?

- (A) yes
- (B) no

23. Consider the claim that the aesthetic value of PT Cruiser cars is a purely subjective matter—some people like them, and some people don’t, and there’s nothing more to be said for or against their aesthetic merits. Which of the following principles of aesthetic judgment does this claim best exemplify?

- (A) Objects are aesthetically valuable if they have the capacity to produce certain emotions we value, at least when the emotion is brought about by art rather than life.
- (B) Objects are aesthetically valuable if they have the capacity to produce special nonemotional experiences, such as feeling of autonomy or the willing suspension of disbelief.
- (C) Objects are aesthetically valuable if they possess a special aesthetic property or exhibit a special aesthetic form.
- (D) No reasoned argument can conclude that objects are aesthetically valuable or valueless.

24. Consider the claim that *Othello* is an aesthetically valuable play because it helps us experience the lure of jealous rage without the consequences that it would have in real-life circumstances. Which of the principles of aesthetic judgment listed as the answer choices for the previous question does this claim best exemplify?