

Small water-supply systems in Crythia generally do not have as much money to spend on sophisticated testing as large water-supply systems do. As a result, water provided by small water-supply systems is more likely to contain dangerous contaminants than water provided by large water-supply systems. The proportion of the Crythian population that is served by small water-supply systems is increasing. Therefore, the proportion of the population suffering illnesses caused by contaminated water is likely to increase.

Which of the following would it be most useful to know in order to evaluate the argument?

- A. Whether most of the new customers of small water-supply systems in Crythia previously used untested private wells for their water
- B. Whether all small water-supply systems in Crythia tend to be contaminated by the same class of contaminants
- C. Whether the number of people in Crythia who are served by large water-supply systems is increasing
- D. Whether the number of small water-supply systems in Crythia is increasing
- E. Whether the majority of contaminants in water provided by supply systems were present in the water before it entered the system

In the United States, many companies provide health care insurance for their employees. More and more of those companies are implementing programs promoting healthy lifestyles, programs that focus on factors associated with rising medical costs, such as high blood pressure. When successful, such programs help contain the cost of health care, and thus of health insurance. In Canada, however, the government pays for health care. Clearly, therefore, Canadian companies have no financial incentive to implement similar programs.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the argument?

- A. When employees miss work because of illness, their employer typically incurs expenses related to finding temporary substitutes for those employees.
- B. Many United States companies have found that certain programs promoting healthy lifestyles improve employee health far more than other such programs do.
- C. Some companies introduce programs promoting healthy lifestyles without first analyzing whether, in their specific case, there will be a net cost savings.
- D. For people who seek employment with a company, the presence or absence of a program promoting healthy lifestyles is not generally a significant consideration.
- E. The cost of specific medical treatments is generally lower in Canada than it is in the United States.

The number of television news minutes per week devoted to science news is many times greater than the number of minutes devoted to art news. Scientific advances that are interesting to viewers are reported, whereas new artwork and art events that are interesting to viewers are not reported. This discrepancy shows that the television stations' allocation of air time to science compared to that time allocated to art does not reflect their viewers' preferences.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the argument above?

- A. Television feature reports, as opposed to television news reports, are much more likely to be about art than about science.
- B. Humorous short reports that are occasionally put at the end of newscasts as fillers are usually about neither art nor science.
- C. It takes much less air time to report a scientific event than it does to report an artistic event of comparable importance and complexity.
- D. Science reporters mistakenly believe they require more special training for their subject than do art reporters.
- E. Those responsible for choosing what is to be reported find scientific breakthroughs of greater personal interest than significant advances in the arts.

City Official: Residential buildings in older neighborhoods in our city often contain corroded lead pipes that cause dangerous levels of lead in drinking water. Last year, the city health department began a lead-awareness campaign, warning people of this problem. Since that time, however, the water department has reported that water usage has increased, especially in neighborhoods where houses are most likely to have corroded pipes. Clearly the campaign has failed to lessen our citizens' exposure to lead in drinking water.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the argument?

- A. One way to lessen the amount of lead in water is to allow the water to run for a time before using it.
- B. Boiling water before drinking it does not remove lead contamination.
- C. There is no direct correlation between the age of a lead pipe and the amount of lead in water that has run through it.
- D. The cost of water service from the city's water department is generally only a small part of a typical household's monthly expenditures.
- E. Removing lead pipes and replacing them with pipes made of a safer material is often extremely costly for homeowners and landlords.

Analysis of a map that is claimed to date from the early 1400's showed that the parchment on which it was drawn was made around 1435. However, the ink with which the map was drawn contains anatase, a rare form of the chemical titanium dioxide. Since the manufacturing process

for anatase is very complicated and was not invented until the 1920's, the map was almost certainly drawn in the twentieth century on an old piece of parchment.

Which of the following, if true, most strengthens the argument?

- A. The design of the map conforms to the standard conventions of mapmaking employed in the early 1400's.
- B. There are no inks in which anatase would form naturally over time as a result of the ink's deterioration.
- C. Other forms of titanium oxide have been known to painters and ink makers for many centuries.
- D. Some kinds of ink that were used in the early 1400's would have made the parchment very brittle and fragile.
- E. When it was first made public, the map was in a binding that also included several manuscripts of travelers' tales whose authenticity has not been challenged.

Including city parks and other green space, Stoneport has 4 acres of green space per 1,000 residents. The mayor wants to raise this ratio to 5 acres per 1,000. Just outside the city's boundary is a 100-acre tract of woodland. Current city parks and other green space amount to 400 acres. Therefore, if the boundary were extended to include the woodland, which was then made into a park, the mayor's goal would be achieved.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the argument?

- A. Demographic trends indicate that Stoneport's population will increase by ten to twenty percent in the time it would take to incorporate the woodland and make it into a park.
- B. When the new park is ready to use, its availability is unlikely to lead to a reduction in the usage of the current city parks.
- C. Usage of city parks by nonresidents who work in or visit Stoneport is likely to increase significantly in the time it would take to create the new park.
- D. The green space other than city parks is protected by city ordinances that prevent it from being built on or otherwise developed.
- E. The city's boundaries can be extended to include the woodland without also incorporating any residential areas that are currently beyond the city boundary.

The remains of ancient Roman siege machinery made of tamarisk wood were found at Masada, a site in an arid region in Israel. Wood cut from tamarisk trees growing near Masada today contains significantly more oxygen-18 than does the ancient wood. The more arid a climate, the higher the oxygen-18 level in the plants that grow in that climate. Hence, Masada's climate was probably much less arid in ancient times than it is today.

Which of the following, if true, provides the most support for the argument?

- A. When the ancient Romans were besieging Masada, they built their siege machinery from

materials obtained near the siege site.

- B. Ancient Roman siege machinery made of tamarisk wood has been found at sites in Israel that have climates similar to that of the region where Masada is located.
- C. The wood from the Roman siege machinery is the only substance from Masada to survive in quantities sufficient to be tested for levels of oxygen-18.
- D. Tamarisk trees currently grow in arid regions both in Israel and in other nearby countries.
- E. At the time the ancient Romans were besieging Masada, they used similar siege machinery in regions that were considerably more arid than the region in which Masada was located.

After recent hurricanes produced tremendous damage there, Mardin County revised its building code. In doing so, Mardin imposed stricter standards for roofing but not for windows. The revision will undoubtedly reduce the principal cause of property damage, namely rainwater coming through damaged roofs. However, the revision will do little to prevent personal injuries, since, while many injuries are caused by flying debris breaking through windows, very few are caused by roof collapse or rainwater.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the argument?

- A. For many years Mardin County's building code has imposed a stricter standard for windows than that imposed by most counties that are frequently struck by hurricanes.
- B. The hurricanes that recently hit Mardin County were not as severe as some hurricanes that have hit there in the past 100 years.
- C. Much of the flying debris carried by the winds of a hurricane is roof material that has become dislodged.
- D. During a hurricane, broken windows in a house cause increased pressure inside the house that can, in turn, cause the roof of the house to become damaged.
- E. Mardin County's building code applies to the repair of houses in addition to the construction of new houses.

Solar radiation is a cause of skin cancer. In the United States, skin cancer is more common on the left side of the face than on the right. Some dermatologists hypothesize that this difference is due to drivers in the United States being directly exposed to solar radiation on the left side of the face more often than on the right, since cars in the United States have the driver's side window to the driver's left.

Which of the following, if true, most strongly supports the dermatologists' hypothesis?

- A. Many people in the United States who develop skin cancer do not regularly drive a car.
- B. When the windows of a car are closed, they absorb much of the harmful solar radiation to which drivers would otherwise be exposed.
- C. In countries where cars have the driver's side window to the driver's right, skin cancer is more

common on the right side of the face.

D. In the United States, most drivers who are diagnosed with skin cancer continue to drive after being diagnosed.

E. Many people who spend more time driving than the average also spend more time out of doors than the average.

Many studies have shown that people traveling in small cars are more likely than people traveling in larger vehicles to be seriously injured when their vehicle is involved in an accident. Therefore, if more people drove larger vehicles instead of small cars, the number of people seriously injured in traffic accidents would decline.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the argument?

A. In traffic accidents that involve pedestrians, far fewer pedestrians are seriously injured by small cars than by larger vehicles.

B. It is unlikely that most people who currently drive small cars will begin to drive larger vehicles instead.

C. Fewer than half of the injuries that are caused in traffic accidents are serious injuries.

D. The proportion of traffic accidents that result in serious injuries has been steadily declining for the last ten years.

E. Recent technological improvements make larger vehicles safer now than larger vehicles of the past.

To prevent accidents caused by fatigue, the government of Hugony has proposed legislation that would require truck drivers to take an 8-hour break after 10 hours of driving. The Truck Drivers Union, however, argues that there are currently not enough parking places in public rest areas along highways to accommodate all the drivers needing a break. Therefore, unless the public rest areas are expanded, truck drivers will be unable to obey the law.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the argument?

A. The public parking areas in Hugony are evenly distributed along the highways.

B. Numerous commercial service plazas along highways in Hugony provide large numbers of free truck parking places.

C. Some Hugonian truck drivers currently take breaks more frequently than the proposed law would require.

D. Currently, most Hugonian truck drivers who come across a full public rest area will continue driving even if they have been driving for more than 10 hours.

E. Some public parking areas in Hugony, particularly those on heavily traveled roads, are substantially larger than others.

There are several known versions of the thirteenth-century book describing a journey Marco Polo of Venice supposedly made to China, yet none contains any description of the Great Wall of China. Since Marco Polo would have had to cross the Great Wall to travel the route described and since the book reports in detail on other, less notable, structures, the omission of the Great Wall strongly suggests that Marco Polo never did actually travel to China.

Which of the following, if true, most strengthens the argument?

- A. The original manuscript of the book describing Marco Polo's supposed journey is no longer in existence.
- B. In his travels, Marco Polo certainly visited his family's trading posts on the Black Sea, where he would have had contact with people who had traveled to the various parts of China that the book describes.
- C. Many notable structures in China that are described in the book were hundreds of years old at the time Marco Polo supposedly traveled to China.
- D. At some places along the Great Wall, a traveler crossing the Wall could do so without realizing that it was an enormous structure.
- E. Certain pieces of accurate information about thirteenth-century China are contained in some of the known versions of the book but not in all known versions.

Pardons single out individuals and allow them to escape punishment for the crimes for which they were convicted. But all individuals who commit a particular crime should suffer the same punishment. Therefore, pardons should be abolished.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the argument above?

- A. Pardons, in effect, deprive the people of their right to call the offender to justice.
- B. Pardons allow a governor or president to free a person who did not commit the crime for which he or she was convicted.
- C. Pardons are sometimes granted to guilty people for inappropriate reasons.
- D. Without the possibility of pardon for the accused, judges and juries would take their duties more seriously.
- E. Pardons are difficult to assign fairly, and in fact they are granted to members of some groups more frequently than to members of others.

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The New York condominium apartment of recently deceased film star Morgan Evans was just sold for well below the initial asking price. The previous apartment sold in the same building was a

neighboring apartment in comparable condition, which, though smaller than the Evans apartment, fetched a higher price. Thus, contrary to what might be expected, the fame of its former owner did nothing to boost the price at which the Evans apartment sold.

Which of the following, if true, most strengthens the argument?

- A. The neighboring apartment belonged, before its sale, to another film star who enjoyed greater public recognition than did Morgan Evans.
- B. When the neighboring apartment was sold, price levels for condominium apartments in New York were not generally inflated well above current price levels.
- C. At the time that the Evans apartment was sold, potential purchasers were aware that several other apartments in the same building were soon to become available for purchase.
- D. At the time of Morgan Evans' death, Evans owned several residences besides the condominium apartment.
- E. Morgan Evans was more widely known in recent years than at any previous period in Evans' life.

Among the workers at a chemical plant, diagnosed cases of a certain disease are unusually frequent. The disease, which has no overt symptoms in its early stages and can therefore remain undetected for several years, has been tentatively correlated with exposure to a chemical that is sometimes used as a raw material at the plant. The union representing the workers therefore argues that the frequency of diagnosis indicates that the plant's control of the chemical is inadequate.

Which of the following, if true, would most seriously undermine the union's argument?

- A. None of the chemicals produced at the plant is of a type that could cause the disease at issue.
- B. The company that operates the plant is one of only a few in the nation that regularly screens its employees for the disease.
- C. The total number of industrial accidents reported to the plant operators has been below the national average.
- D. The disease rarely occurs in individuals under the age of 45, and fewer than 50 percent of the workforce at the plant are 45 or older.
- E. Occurrence of the disease has been correlated with exposure to only one of the chemicals that the plant uses as raw materials.

Condominium resident: Some members of our residents' association want to impose a move-in fee for all new owners and renters, on the grounds that people moving furniture into the building may damage the stairwells and hallways. However, imposing such a fee on those grounds would unfairly target the building's new residents. Long-term residents often move furniture and other bulky items through the building as well, and pay no fee for doing so.

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