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QUESTION 1

Many political economists believe that the soundest indicator of the economic health of a nation is the nation's gross-national product (GNP) per capita—a figure reached by dividing the total value of the goods produced yearly in a nation by its population and taken to be a measure of the welfare of the nation's residents. But there are many factors affecting residents' welfare that are not captured by per capita GNP; human indicators, while sometimes more difficult to calculate or document, provide sounder measures of a nation's progress than does the indicator championed by these economists. These human indicators include nutrition and life expectancy; birth weight and level of infant mortality; ratio of population level to availability of resources; employment opportunities; and the ability of governments to provide services such as education, clean water, medicine, public transportation, and mass communication for their residents.

The economists defend their use of per capita GNP as the sole measure of a nation's economic health by claiming that improvements in per capita GNP eventually stimulate improvements in human indicators. But, in actuality, this often fails to occur. Even in nations where economic stimulation has brought about substantial improvements in per capita GNP, economic health as measured by human indicators does not always reach a level commensurate with the per capita GNP. Nations that have achieved a relatively high per capita GNP, for example, sometimes experience levels of infant survival, literacy, nutrition, and life expectancy no greater than levels in nations where per capita GNP is relatively low. In addition, because per capita GNP is an averaged figure, it often presents a distorted picture of the wealth of a nation; for example, in a relatively sparsely populated nation where a small percentage of residents receives most of the economic benefits of production while the majority receives very little benefit, per capita GNP may nevertheless be high. The welfare of a nation's residents is a matter not merely of total economic benefit, but also of the distribution of economic benefits across the entire society. Measuring a nation's economic health only by total wealth frequently obscures a lack of distribution of wealth across the society as a whole.

In light of the potential for such imbalances in distribution of economic benefits, some nations have begun to realize that their domestic economic efforts are better directed away from attempting to raise per capita GNP and instead toward ensuring that the conditions measured by human indicators are salutary. They recognize that unless a shift in focus away from using material wealth as the sole indicator of economic success is effected, the well-being of the nation may be endangered, and that nations that do well according to human indicators may thrive even if their per capita GNP remains stable or lags behind that of other nations. Which one of the following scenarios, if true, would most clearly be a counterexample to the views expressed in the last paragraph of the passage?

- A. The decision by a nation with a low level of economic health as measured by human indicators to focus on increasing the levels of human indicators results in slower growth in its per capita GNP.
- B. The decision by a nation with a low level of economic health as measured by human indicators to focus on increasing domestic production of goods results in significant improvements in the levels of human indicators.
- C. The decision by a nation with a low level of economic health as measured by human indicators to focus on increasing the levels of human indicators results in increased growth in per capita GNP.
- D. The decision by a nation with a low per capita GNP to focus on improving its level of economic health as measured by human indicators fails to bring about an increase in per capita GNP.
- E. The decision by a nation with a low per capita GNP to focus on increasing domestic production of goods fails to improve its economic health as measured by human indicators.

Correct Answer: B

Predicting the right answer helps you wade through the morass of the lengthy answer choices. Since the last lauds nations that are trying to improve human indicators of economic health rather than per capita GNP, a counterexample would naturally describe the opposite, and so B. does. A nation that improves domestic production (a function of GNP, "the goods produced yearly in a nation") and thereby sees improvement on a daily human level is behaving not in line with 3 but rather just as the author's opponents, the economists would advocate.

**QUESTION 2**

This morning, a bakery makes exactly one delivery, consisting of exactly six loaves of bread. Each of the loaves is exactly one of three kinds: oatmeal, rye, or wheat, and each is either sliced or unsliced. The loaves that the bakery delivers this morning must be consistent with the following:

If the bakery delivers exactly four wheat loaves, then the bakery could also deliver

- A. one sliced rye loaf and one unsliced rye loaf
- B. one sliced oatmeal loaf and one unsliced oatmeal loaf
- C. two unsliced rye loaves
- D. two unsliced oatmeal loaves
- E. two sliced oatmeal loaves

Correct Answer: B

If four wheat loaves are delivered, then those wheat loaves are sliced (Rule 3). One unsliced oatmeal loaf is always included, and that kills options [one sliced rye loaf and one unsliced rye loaf], [two unsliced rye loaves], and [two sliced oatmeal loaves]. So what could the sixth loaf be? It can't be an unsliced oatmeal, since that would violate Rule 5. That kills option [two unsliced oatmeal loaves].

QUESTION 3

Columnist: It is impossible for there to be real evidence that lax radiation standards that were once in effect at nuclear reactors actually contributed to the increase in cancer rates near such sites. The point is a familiar one: who can say if a particular case of cancer is due to radiation, exposure to environmental toxins, smoking, poor diet, or genetic factors.

The argument's reasoning is most vulnerable to criticism on which one of the following grounds?

- A. The argument fails to recognize that there may be convincing statistical evidence even if individual causes cannot be known.
- B. The argument inappropriately presupposes that what follows a certain phenomenon was caused by that phenomenon.
- C. The argument inappropriately draws a conclusion about causes of cancer in general from evidence drawn from a particular case of cancer.
- D. The argument ignores other possible causes of the increase in cancer rates near the nuclear reactor complexes.
- E. The argument concludes that a claim about a causal connection is false on the basis of a lack of evidence for the claim.

Correct Answer: A

Once again, an argument author is using faulty logic; no big surprise there. The columnist concludes that it is "impossible" for there to be evidence that lax radiation standards at nuclear reactors actually contributed to the increase in cancer rates near those sites. And the columnist's evidence that it is impossible for there to be such evidence? Simply the fact that no one can say if a particular case of cancer is due to radiation, smoking, or other factors. Did you



notice the scope shift there? Many flawed arguments turn on such subtle scope shifts. In this instance the columnist takes evidence about what may have caused a single case of cancer and uses it to support a conclusion about whether there is evidence that radiation contributed to an increase in cancer rates. Therefore, you should have been looking for an answer choice that addresses this scope shift. Option [The argument fails to recognize that there...] does the job. If, for instance, there were statistical evidence that cancer rates had increased by 80 percent during the relevant time period, that would be evidence that the standards had made a contribution, even if you couldn't prove conclusively that any one of the individual cases was due to radiation.

QUESTION 4

The first person in the group starts off by naming anything that is geographical. It could be a city, state, country, river, lake, or any proper geographical term. For example, the person might say, "Boston." The second person has ten seconds to think of how the word ends and come up with another geographical term starting with that letter. The second participant might say, "Norway," since the geographical term has to start with "N." The third person would have to choose a word beginning with "Y." If a player fails to think of a correct answer within the time limit, that player is out of the game. The last person to survive is the champion.

This game may help you with

- A. history
- B. music
- C. geography
- D. sports
- E. current events

Correct Answer: C

QUESTION 5

A running track with a hard surface makes for greater running speed than a soft one, at least under dry conditions, because even though step length is shorter on a hard surface, the time the runner's foot remains in contact with the running surface is less with a hard surface.

Which one of the following, if true, is evidence that the explanation given above is only a partial one?

- A. Dry running conditions can be guaranteed for indoor track races only.
- B. In general, taller runners have greater average step length than shorter runners do.
- C. Hard tracks enhance a runner's speed by making it easier for the runner to maintain a posture that minimizes wind resistance.
- D. The tracks at which the world's fastest running times have been recorded are located well above sea level, where the air is relatively thin.
- E. To remain in top condition, a soft track surface requires different maintenance procedures than does a hard one.



Correct Answer: C

This question stem requires some translation. We're looking for something that, if true, would show that the author's explanation is only a partial one. So we're looking for a weakener of the explanation: something that points to another factor. Another way of thinking about this question is to recognize that the stem is telling you that the author is arguing that X (and only X) causes Y. You need to look for the answer choice that says Z also causes Y. The author's conclusion is that hard tracks are faster; the author says this is because the runner's foot is in contact with a hard surface for a shorter period of time. The correct answer choice will therefore give you another reason why hard tracks are faster. And that's what option [Hard tracks enhance a runner's speed by...] does. It tells you that hard tracks also make it possible for runners to minimize the effect of wind resistance, again making their times faster. If option [Hard tracks enhance a runner's speed by...] is true, then the author's explanation of why hard tracks are fast is only a partial explanation.

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