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QUESTION 1

Studies have shown that, contrary to popular belief, middle-aged people have more fear of dying than do elderly people.

Each of the following, if true, contributes to an explanation of the phenomenon shown by the studies EXCEPT:

- A. The longer one lives, the more likely it is that one has come to terms with dying.
- B. Middle-aged people have more people dependent upon them than people of any other age group.
- C. Many people who suffer from depression first become depressed in middle age.
- D. The longer one lives, the more imperturbable one becomes.
- E. Middle-aged people have a more acute sense of their own mortality than do people of any other age group.

Correct Answer: C

There are four good explanations for the phenomenon shown by the studies in this argument, so we know that we will have to understand the phenomenon and then jump straight to the answer choices. Just one short sentence to deal with: According to studies, middle-aged people fear dying more than elderly people do. (The phrase ". . . contrary to popular belief" also lets us know that most people think the opposite is true, but that shouldn't concern us since we're interested only in the phenomenon itself, not what people believe about it.) Each wrong choice will make it easier to understand why middle-aged folks are more afraid to die than are old people, while the correct choice will not address this question, most likely because it deviates from the scope. And so it does: As there is no stated clear connection between depression and fearing death, the fact that depression often sets in during middle age does nothing to explain the phenomenon described. Depression, while perhaps seemingly relevant at first glance, is actually at least one step removed from the scope here.

QUESTION 2

Supervisor: Our next budget proposal will probably be approved, because normally about half of all budget proposals that the vice president considers are approved, and our last five budget proposals have all been turned down.

The supervisor's reasoning is flawed because it presumes, without giving warrant, that

- A. the last five budget proposals' having been turned down guarantees that the next five budget proposals will be approved
- B. the vice president is required to approve at least half of all budget proposals submitted
- C. having the last five budget proposals turned down affects the likelihood that the next budget proposal will be turned down
- D. the majority of the last five budget proposals deserved to be turned down
- E. the likelihood that a budget proposal will be approved is influenced by the amount of money that budget proposal requests

Correct Answer: C

The prediction that the next proposal will probably be approved is based on two facts: the last 5 got thumbs down, and



"normally about half" get thumbs up. You needn't know the total number of proposals submitted to recognize that option [having the last five budget...] is the problem: The supervisor has no reason to believe that the last 5 turn downs are relevant, in any way, to the next budget decision. If the

V.P. considers each proposal on its own merits only, then the probability of the next one's success is unaffected, at least in the way the supervisor argues.

QUESTION 3

Historian: The spread of literacy informs more people of injustices and, in the right circumstances, leads to increased capacity to distinguish true reformers from mere opportunists. However, widespread literacy invariably emerges before any comprehensive system of general education; thus, in the interim, the populace is vulnerable to clever demagogues calling for change. Consequently, some relatively benign regimes may ironically be toppled by their own "enlightened" move to increase literacy.

Which one of the following is an assumption on which the historian's argument depends?

- A. A demagogue can never enlist the public support necessary to topple an existing regime unless a comprehensive system of general education is in place.
- B. Without literacy there can be no general awareness of the injustice in a society.
- C. Any comprehensive system of general education will tend to preserve the authority of benign regimes.
- D. A lack of general education affects the ability to differentiate between legitimate and illegitimate calls for reform.
- E. Any benign regime that fails to provide comprehensive general education will be toppled by a clever demagogue.

Correct Answer: D

The historian believes that a country's move towards literacy, a condition that makes the public more informed and skeptical of opportunists, can ironically make the country more vulnerable to opportunists. His reasoning is that widespread literacy tends to predate the establishment of general education, and during that middle period, the public is ripe to be hoodwinked. This assessment hinges on the premise that there is something about general education that, when combined with literacy, renders protection against scoundrels, and option [A lack of general education affects...] points out that very premise.

QUESTION 4

The victory of the small Greek democracy of Athens over the mighty Persian empire in 490 B. C. is one of the most famous events in history. Darius, king of the Persian empire, was furious because Athens had interceded for the other Greek city-states in revolt against Persian domination. In anger the king sent an enormous army to defeat Athens. He thought it would take drastic steps to pacify the rebellious part of the empire. Persia was ruled by one man. In Athens, however, all citizens helped to rule. Ennobled by this participation, Athenians were prepared to die for their city-state. Perhaps this was the secret of the remarkable victory at Marathon, which freed them from Persian rule. On their way to Marathon, the Persians tried to fool some Greek city-states by claiming to have come in peace. The frightened citizens of Delos refused to believe this. Not wanting to abet the conquest of Greece, they fled from their city and did not return until the Persians had left. They were wise, for the Persians next conquered the city of Etria and captured its people. Tiny Athens stood alone against Persia. The Athenian people went to their sanctuaries. There they prayed for deliverance. They asked their gods to expedite their victory. The Athenians refurbished their weapons and moved to the plain of Marathon, where their little band would meet the Persians. At the last moment, soldiers from Plataea reinforced the Athenian troops. The Athenian army attacked, and Greek citizens fought bravely. The power of the mighty Persians was offset by the love that the Athenians had for their city. Athenians defeated the Persians in archery and hand



combat. Greek soldiers seized Persian ships and burned them, and the Persians fled in terror. Herodotus, a famous historian, reports that 6400 Persians died, compared with only 192 Athenians.

Athens had _____ the other Greek city-states against the Persians.

- A. refused help to
- B. intervened on behalf of
- C. wanted to fight
- D. given orders for all to fight
- E. defeated

Correct Answer: B

QUESTION 5

Experts anticipate that global atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide (CO₂) will have-doubled by the end of the twenty-first century. It is known that CO₂ can contribute to global warming by trapping solar energy that is being reradiated as heat from the Earth's surface. However, some research has suggested that elevated CO₂ levels could enhance the photosynthetic rates of plants, resulting in a lush world of agricultural abundance, and that this CO₂ fertilization effect might eventually decrease the rate of global warming. The increased vegetation in such an environment could be counted on to draw more CO₂ from the atmosphere. The level of CO₂ would thus increase at a lower rate than many experts have predicted.

However, while a number of recent studies confirm that plant growth would be generally enhanced in an atmosphere rich in CO₂, they also suggest that increased CO₂ would differentially increase the growth rate of different species of plants, which could eventually result in decreased agricultural yields. Certain important crops such as corn and sugarcane that currently have higher photosynthetic efficiencies than other plants may lose that edge in an atmosphere rich in CO₂. Patterson and Flint have shown that these important crops may experience yield reductions because of the increased performance of certain weeds. Such differences in growth rates between plant species could also alter ecosystem stability. Studies have shown that within rangeland regions, for example, a weedy grass grows much better with plentiful CO₂ than do three other grasses. Because this weedy grass predisposes land to burning, its potential increase may lead to greater numbers of and more severe wildfires in future rangeland communities.

It is clear that the CO₂ fertilization effect does not guarantee the lush world of agricultural abundance that once seemed likely, but what about the potential for the increased uptake of CO₂ to decrease the rate of global warming? Some studies suggest that the changes accompanying global warming will not improve the ability of terrestrial ecosystems to absorb CO₂. Billings' simulation of global warming conditions in wet tundra grasslands showed that the level of CO₂ actually increased. Plant growth did increase under these conditions because of warmer temperatures and increased CO₂ levels. But as the permafrost melted, more peat (accumulated dead plant material) began to decompose. This process in turn liberated more CO₂ to the atmosphere. Billings estimated that if summer temperatures rose four degrees Celsius, the tundra would liberate 50 percent more CO₂ than it does currently. In a warmer world, increased plant growth, which could absorb CO₂ from the atmosphere, would not compensate for this rapid increase in decomposition rates. This observation is particularly important because high-latitude habitats such as the tundra are expected to experience the greatest temperature increase.

The passage suggests that Patterson and Flint would be most likely to agree with which one of the following statements about increased levels of CO₂ in the Earth's atmosphere?

- A. They will not increase the growth rates of most species of plants.
- B. They will inhibit the growth of most crops, thus causing substantial decreases in agricultural yields.



- C. They are unlikely to increase the growth rates of plants with lower photosynthetic efficiencies.
- D. They will increase the growth rates of certain species of plants more than the growth rates of other species of plants.
- E. They will not affect the photosynthetic rates of plants that currently have the highest photosynthetic efficiencies.

Correct Answer: D

D is a straightforward inference from where Patterson and Flint come in. Certain crops (corn, sugarcane) "may experience yield reductions...because of the increased performance of certain weeds."

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