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GMAT Sample Question Paper 2025 - II

Graduate Management Admission Test

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Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT)

In the verbal section you will have 75 minutes to answer 41 questions.

11 of these questions are experimental and would not be counted towards your score. There is no way to identify which questions are experimental as they are mixed in randomly through out the section.

This section includes three types of questions: sentence correction, critical reading, and reading comprehension. Sentence correction questions test your ability to spot grammatical mistakes. The Critical reasoning questions test your ability to understand and analyze arguments. And the reading comprehension tests your ability to find information in a long passage.

One can calculate the exact answer for a math question but the credited answers for a verbal question seem very subjective and arbitrary. Here an answer choice is correct because it is better than other four answer choices.

The basic approach:

For sentence correction:

- to identify a grammar problem or rule – Eliminate answer choices containing that error.
- Compare the remaining answers,- choose the best answer.

For Critical Reasoning :

- Break the argument in conclusion, premise and assumptions, - state the answer in your words
- Eliminate the answer choices that do not match with your answer.

For reading Comprehension:

- Read the passage quickly to get the main idea, read and decipher the question
- Find the answer in the passage – write answer in your own words.
- Eliminate the answer choices that do not match your answer.

Best of luck

Verbal Section

This question presents a sentence, part of which or all of which is underlined. Beneath the sentence you will find five ways of rephrasing the underlined part. The first of these repeats the original; the other four are different. If you think the original is best, choose option A, else pick one of the others.

1. John and Tim went to the bank and he made a deposit.
 - A. he
 - B. they
 - C. it
 - D. their

- E. you
2. Although the average Girl Scout joins the organization at age 14, they have already been Brownies for several years.
- A. they have already been Brownies
 - B. they were Brownies
 - C. she has already been a Brownie
 - D. she had already been a Brownie
 - E. she was in the Brownies
3. In 1980, the Netherlands agreed to limit fishing in certain Atlantic Ocean beds, but in 1981, they terminated the agreement.
- A. they terminated the agreement.
 - B. they decided to terminate the agreement.
 - C. it terminated the agreement.
 - D. it was terminated.
 - E. it decided the agreement was terminated.
4. While brokers, as a rule, are not permitted to know executive access codes, in many instances they are widely known.
- A. they are widely known
 - B. they are widely known to be
 - C. they are widely known by many
 - D. the codes are able to be widely known
 - E. the codes are widely known
5. Despite seeming tame and intelligent, the state troopers had no choice but to shoot the loose Gorilla.
- A. Despite seeming tame and intelligent
 - B. Despite a tame and intelligent appearance
 - C. Although appearing to be tame and intelligent
 - D. Although it seemed tame and intelligent
 - E. However tame and intelligent in appearance
- 6 . The number of workers have increased steadily each year.
- A. have increased steadily
 - B. steadily have increased
 - C. have been increasing steadily
 - D. has increased steadily
 - E. has steadily been going through an increase
7. The commercial airliner flew too close to the military base, an act that the army saw as a violation of its air space.
- A.as
 - B. as if it was
 - C. to be
 - D. that it was
 - E. for

The questions in this group are based on the content of a passage. After reading the passage, choose the best answer to each question. Answer all questions following the passage on the basis of what is stated or implied in the passage.

8. For the past five years, US consumption of eggs has decreased. The National Egg Council plans to reverse this trend by launching an advertising campaign extolling the healthful benefits of eggs.

Which one of the following, if true, will provide the strongest support for the National Egg Council's plan?

- A. Eggs are a good source of protein.
 - B. Many former egg eaters now make omelets using egg substitutes.
 - C. Most people stopped eating eggs because they thought eggs were unhealthy.
 - D. Eggs contain unhealthy levels of cholesterol.
 - E. Eggs substitute makers launched an extensive marketing campaign six years ago.
9. In an effort to reduce the amount of fat and the number of calories that they consume, many citizens of the United States are making significant changes in their diets. For them staying in shape and looking fit now take precedence over eating foods that are filling and that taste good. It is likely that if they maintain these new priorities with consistent regard for other health issues, the length and quality of their lives will increase significantly.

Which one of the following is an assumption upon which the argument is based?

- A. Eating foods that are filling and tastes good is inconsistent with staying in shape and looking fit.
 - B. Controlling the quality of one's life requires more than mere dietary adjustments.
 - C. A combination of diet and exercise is necessary if one wishes to stay in shape and look fit.
 - D. Many citizens of the United States have only recently discovered the importance of diet to living a longer, healthier life.
 - E. Staying in shape and looking good are current goals for most citizens of the United States.
10. Singing in the Rain Umbrella Corp. plans to institute a marketing campaign in which it sells umbrellas at the exits of subway stations during rainy weather. The umbrellas will be sold at a price that is slightly higher than normal. The company thinks the sales of these higher – priced umbrellas will be greater than normal sales of umbrellas, because the purchasers of these umbrellas will be forced to buy them if they do not want to get wet.

The author assumes which of the following about the purchasers of the umbrellas in predicting the sales of the umbrellas?

- A. Customers who do not feel immediate pressure to purchase will not do so.
- B. Normally priced umbrellas are not profitable for singing in the Rain Umbrellas Corp.
- C. Very few people buy Singing in the Rain's normally priced umbrellas.
- D. Singing in the Rain Umbrellas Corp. will have to stop selling normally priced umbrellas when it starts selling higher priced umbrellas.
- E. Most potential customers of Singing in the Rain's higher priced umbrellas will not have acquired an umbrella previously.

11. A leading cement manufacture has been having problems processing manufacturing and delivery records since it expanded its operations. To solve this problem it plans to install a new platform on its central computing system which will run its tracking program five times faster than the current system does.

Which one of the following casts the most serious doubt on the manufacture's plan?

- A. Not all computer platforms can make the company's tracking programs run more quickly
- B. The cost of the new computer platform will require the cement manufacture to raise prices for its products.
- C. The cement company's computer system does not have the capability to run the new platform and cannot be updated.
- D. The company has been increasing the sales of cement by 1.5 percent a month for the past 18 months.
- E. A completely new computer system could make the program run 6 times faster than it does currently.

12. Critics insist that government regulation of business has made it more difficult for American businesses to operate profitably and has destroyed their ability to compete with foreign producers of consumer goods. This argument is not compelling. Government regulation of business was never as active in this nation as it was between the years 1975 and 1985, and in those years the average net worth of American family increased more than it had in any previous decade.

The author's argument would be *most seriously weakened* if it were true that

- A. 80 percent of all businesses started during the decade 1975-1985 lost money in their first year.
- B. More businesses declared bankruptcy during the period 1975-1985 than in any previous decade.
- C. During the decade 1975-1985, America imported more consumer goods than it exported.

- D. The increase in net worth of average American families during the years 1975-1985 was largely due to an increase in the value of residential homes.
 - E. The average interest rate charged on business and home mortgage loans was higher during the decade 1975-1985 than it had been in any previous decade.
13. A recession is not caused by any economic force other than nation wide loss of confidence. If the economy is perceived as being unstable, banks are conservative in lending money, investors take fewer risks and hence economic growth is slowed.

Which of the following, if true, would most strengthen the argument above.

- A. A recession is getting effected by the response of the Federal Reserve's setting of interest rates.
 - B. A recession can be brought on by the failure of a major bank that had been loaning money.
 - C. Slowed economic growth is not the only result of a recession.
 - D. When investors begin taking greater risks it is enough to stimulate economic growth.
 - E. It is a fallacy to assume that economic growth is necessary for economic stability.
14. In an effort to increase revenues, Sky Air recently partnered with several airlines to create a joint frequent-flier program. In the new program, miles earned on all partner airlines can be combined for reward tickets valid on any airline in the partnership. Sky Air's CEO cites a recent increase in the number of passengers on all the partner airlines as evidence that the new frequent-flier program is having the desired effect. Industry analysts doubt the CEO's claim.

Which of the following, if true, best supports the analysts' positions?

- A. Air travel tends to be seasonal, with more passengers traveling during warmer months and holiday periods.
- B. The recent increase in passenger rates for all the partner airlines was predicted by the lowest rates of air travel in the last decade.
- C. Many travelers achieved reward tickets more quickly under the new frequent-flier program and redeemed them recently for free travel.
- D. Travelers redeemed frequent-flier rewards on Sky Air's partners more frequently than on Sky Air.
- E. A study of frequent-flier programs showed that they generally result in increased long-term airline revenues.

This question presents a sentence, part of which or all of which is underlined. Beneath the sentence you will find five ways of rephrasing the underlined part. The first of these repeats the original; the other four are different. If you think the original is best, choose option A, else pick one of the others

15. Neither my mother nor my father, both of whom are English professors, agree with my contention that James Joyce's novel *Ulysses* is overrated.
- A. Both of whom are English professors, agree with my contention that James Joyce's novel *Ulysses* is overrated.
 - B. Both of whom are English professors, agrees with my contention that James Joyce's novel *Ulysses* is overrated.
 - C. Both of whom are English professors, agree with my contention that *Ulysses*, a novel by James Joyce is overrated.
 - D. Each of whom is an English professor, agree with my contention that James Joyce's novel *Ulysses* is overrated.
 - E. English professors the both of them agrees with my contention that James Joyce's novel *Ulysses* is overrated.
16. A number of military personnel who served in Operation Desert Storm has encountered a series of unexplainable symptoms that were attributed to Gulf War syndrome.
- A. has encountered a series of unexplainable symptoms that were attributed to
 - B. has unexplainably encountered a series of symptoms that have been attributed as
 - C. have encountered a series of unexplained symptoms that have been attributed as
 - D. have encountered a series of unexplainable symptoms that have been attributed to
 - E. have encountered unexplainably a series of symptoms that were attributed as
17. Although Smith once championed the charity, he changed his mind after journalist linked its origin to a corrupt individual.
- A. once championed the charity
 - B. had once championed the charity
 - C. has once championed the charity
 - D. was a champion of the charity

E championed the charity at one time

18. A swarm of desert honeybees, a phenomenon seen by few of the select scientists and entomologists, occur when a portion of the colony leave the current nest to find a new home.

- A. few of the select scientists and entomologists, occur when a portion of the colony leave
- B. a select few scientists and entomologists, only occurs when portions of the colony leaves
- C. very few selected scientists and entomologists, occur when portions of the colony leave
- D. only very few selected scientists and entomologists, occurs when a portion of the colony leaves
- E. only a select few scientists and entomologists, occurs when a portion of the colony leaves

19. During the State of the Union address every February the president announced the amount of the new programs the administration planned to create and the amounts of money it invested in each one.

- A. announced the amount of the new programs the administration planned to create and the amounts of money it invested in each one
- B. announced the amount of the new programs the administration had created and the amount of money that was invested in each one
- C. announces the number of the new programs the administration plans to create and the amount of money to be invested in each one
- D. announces the amount of the new programs created by the administration and the amount of money invested in them
- E. had announced the administration's plans for a number of new programs and the amounts of money that were to be invested in them

20. Of the numerous decisions facing the Supreme Court this term, the question of an individual's right to die is for certain the more perplexing.

- A. the question of an individual's right to die is for certain the more perplexing
- B. it seems certain that the more perplexing is the question of an individual's right to die
- C. the question of an individual's right to die is certainly the most perplexing
- D. it seems certain the question of an individual's right to die is the most perplexing
- E. the question of an individual's right to die is certainly the more perplexing

21. In response to losing a significant part of its market share to a competitor, the soft drink company has cut costs by withholding executive bonuses, changed their advertising agency, and have redesigned the company logo.

- A. changed their advertising agency, and have
- B. changing their advertising agency, as well as
- C. has changed its advertising agency, and
- D. and changed its advertising agency, and has
- E. changed its advertising agency, and

22. Now even directors of off- Broadway productions, desperate for actors who are talented, charismatic, and aspiring more to a solid career in the theater than to the lucrative rewards and stardom proffered by movie moguls and studios, are turning to independent casting directors for guidance in assembling their casts.

- A. are talented, charismatic, and aspiring
- B. are talented, who have charisma, and who are aspiring
- C. have talent and are charismatic and aspire
- D. are talented and have charisma, and whose aspirations are
- E. are talented and charismatic, and who aspire

23. The Supreme Court can effectively rule on a case in two ways, either by deciding to hear the case and handing down its judgment, or rather to simply refuse to hear the case at all.

- A. either by deciding to hear the case and handing down its judgment, or rather to simply refuse
- B. either by deciding to hear the case and handing down its judgment, or by simply refusing
- C. by either deciding to hear the case and hand down its judgment or to simply refuse
- D. to hear a case and to hand down its judgment, or to refuse simply
- E. either by deciding to hear the case and hand down its judgment, or the simple refuse

24. The establishment of land trusts in New England has been praised not because of its restricting overdevelopment but because it allows the inheritance by future generations of the property.

- A. not because of its restricting overdevelopment but because it allows the inheritance by future generations of
- B. because of not only is restricting overdevelopment and also allows the inheritance by future generations of
- C. because it does not only restrict overdevelopment, it also allows future generations for inheriting
- D. because of not only the restrictions on over development but also because future generations can inherit
- E. Not only because it restricts overdevelopment but also because it allows future generations to inherit

25. Some students of literary criticism consider the theories of Blaine to be a huge advance in modern critical thinking and question the need to study the discounted theories of Rauthe and Wilson.

- A. to be a huge advance in modern critical thinking and question
- B. as a huge advance in modern critical thinking and question
- C. as being a huge advance in modern critical thinking and questioned
- D. a huge advance in modern critical thinking and question
- E. are a huge advance in modern critical thinking and questioned

26. One of the possible results of the further depletion of the ozone in the atmosphere would be a sharp increase in the demand for sunscreens. Many of the ingredients in sunscreens are natural, and the demand for these products will require strict conservation laws. This will represent the victory for those who desire greater protection for the environment.

Which one of the following best states the conclusion in the passage above?

- A. Industries that produce ozone-depleting chemicals should be encouraged to continue doing so.
 - B. Regulation of ozone-depleting chemicals should be handled on a federal level.
 - C. The natural ingredients in sunscreen products should be replaced by synthetic substitutes.
 - D. The effects of ozone depletion on the environment are not categorically negative.
 - E. The few positive effects of ozone depletion are far outweighed by the myriad negative effects.
27. The American division of the Acme running shoe company should begin marketing running shoes with double-thick soles. Acme's Swedish division is selling a large number of these items, and is enjoying its most profitable quarter ever.

Which of the following is an assumption made by the author of the argument above?

- A. Acme's Brazilian division is also selling a large number of running shoes with double-thick soles.
 - B. Swedes and Americans have similar tastes in music.
 - C. Acme is the only running shoe company that manufacturers double-thick soles.
 - D. The running shoe market in America tends to follow the same trends as does the market in Sweden.
 - E. Acme has experienced financial troubles in the last three quarters.
28. Currently about 70 percent of all urban households recycle some portion of their garbage, 25 percent more than did ten years ago. This increase can be attributed , in part , to the fact that a larger portion of the population is now under the age of 47.

Of the following, which can be most properly inferred from the passage above?

- A. Of those who currently recycle, at least 70 percent recycle less than 25 percent of what is potentially recyclable.
- B. Younger people are generally more conscientious about waste disposal than are older people.

- C. People under the age of 47 are more likely to recycle than are their older counterparts.
 - D. The overall population has risen by at least 25 percent in the past ten years.
 - E. People currently over the age of 47 recycled more often ten years ago.
29. State colleges have lower tuitions than do private colleges because many of their operating costs are covered by federal and state funds.

Which of the following inferences is best supported by the statement made above?

- A. Private colleges have higher operating costs than do state colleges.
 - B. Many more people matriculate at state colleges than do at private colleges.
 - C. Tuition fees and operating costs are directly related.
 - D. the cost of attending state college is always more than the cost of attending private college.
 - E. If private colleges are to lower their tuitions , they must receive outside support.
30. Many people feel that hard work deserves a reward. However, this is not true. Hard work should be its own reward, because such work intrinsically gives the worker satisfaction when it is performed satisfactorily.

The author of the argument draws his or her conclusion by

- A. Claiming than what is commonly believed is false for that very reason.
 - B. Pointing out the inconsistencies in a counterargument.
 - C. Challenging the definition of the word “reward” as something extrinsic to a task.
 - D. Repeating a premise that was previously stated.
 - E. Allowing a counterclaim to weaken his or her argument.
- 31 . If we reduce the salaries of our employees, then profits will increase by 35 percent. Because we must increase our profits, it is clear that employee salaries must be reduced.

Which of the following most closely parallels the reasoning used in the argument above?

- A. If I eat less food, I will lose weight. Since I started skipping breakfast, I have lost ten pounds.
- B. If I work four more hours each week, I will earn enough money to afford a new hobby. Because I would like a new hobby, I will collect coins.

- C. If god does not exist, then there is no basis for morality. Because some actions are morally wrong, God must exist.
- D. If there is an economic recession, then salaries will be reduced. Because salaries are not decreasing, there is not an economic recession.
- E. If there were more commercials, the number of television watchers would decline. Because the number of television watchers should be reduced, the number of commercials should be increased.

This question presents a sentence, part of which or all of which is underlined. Beneath the sentence you will find five ways of rephrasing the underlined part. The first of these repeats the original; the other four are different. If you think the original is best, choose option A, else pick one of the others

32. As we traveled the back roads of Arkansas, each of us were equipped with a canteen, a knife, and a compass.
- A. Each of us were equipped
 - B. Equipping ourselves
 - C. Every one of were equipped
 - D. Each of us was equipped
 - E. Equipped as we are
33. The best labor negotiators are the ones that have the ability of settling even the most irreconcilable stalemates.
- A. The ones that have the ability of settling even
 - B. Them that are able even to settle
 - C. Those who have the ability to settle even
 - D. Those that are able to even settle
 - E. The ones who have the ability of even settling
34. Many small companies expand their client bases not so much by aggressive marketing as by networking and word of mouth.
- A. So much by aggressive marketing as by
 - B. As much with marketing aggressively as with
 - C. Much by aggressive marketing that instead by
 - D. So aggressively with marketing but with
 - E. In marketing aggressively but rather in

Reading Comprehension

The questions in this group are based on the content of a passage. After reading the passage, choose the best answer to each question. Answer all questions following the passage on the basis of what is stated or implied in the passage.

- Until recently corporate ideology in the United States has held that bigger is better. This traditional view of the primacy of big, centralized companies is now being challenged as some of the giants of American business
5. are being out formed by a new generation of smaller, streamlined business. If it was the industrial revolutions that spawned the area of massive industrialize companies, then perhaps it is the information revolutions of the 1990s that is spawning the area of the small company.

10. For most of this century, big companies dominated an American business scene that seemed to thrive on its own Grandness of scale. The expansion westward, the growth of railroad and steel industries, an almost limitless supply of cheap raw materials, plus a populations boom
15. That provided an ever increasing demand for new products (although not cheap source of labor) all coincided to encourage the growth of large companies.

But rapid developments in the market place have begun to change the accepted rules of business and have under-scored

20. the need for fast reaction times. Small companies without huge overhead and inventory, can respond quickly to a technologically advanced age in which new products and technologies can become outmoded within a year of their being brought to market.

25. Of course, successful emerging small companies face a potential dilemma in that their very success will tend to turn them into copies of the large corporate dinosaurs they are now supplanting. To avoid this trap, small companies may look to the example of several CEOs of large corporations who
30. have broken down their sprawling organizations into small semi-independent divisions capable of making their way into the twenty first century.

1. The primary purpose of the passage is to
- ☐ Present evidence that resolves a contradiction in business theory
 - ☐ Discuss reasons why an accepted business pattern is changing
 - ☐ Describe a theoretical model and method whereby that model can be tested.
 - ☐ Argue that a traditional ideology deserve new attentions
 - ☐ Resolve two conflicting explanations for a phenomenon
2. The author's attitude toward emerging small companies is one of the
- ☐ Disappointment
 - ☐ Optimism
 - ☐ Uncertainty
 - ☐ Criticism
 - ☐ Elation
3. Which of the following best describes the organization of the first paragraph of the passage?
- ☐ A conventional model is described and an alternative is introduced.
 - ☐ An assertion is made and general supporting example is given.
 - ☐ Two contradictory points of view are presented and evaluated.
 - ☐ A historical overview is given to explain a phenomenon.
 - ☐ A new theory is described and then qualified.

Passage 2

One recent example of industrial hyper growth has taken place in the recycling industry, led by the rapid expansion of the recycled paper market. Though many laws were enacted in the late 1980s to encourage (and in some cases require) the collection of waste paper for recycling, there were not, at that time, companies with sufficient capacity to recycle it all. Consequently the collected paper accumulated in storage, usually at the expense of the recycling companies, thereby adding to their overhead and squeezing their already thin profit margins.

Today a different situation exists. Fifty-seven new paper mills have been built since 1991, and of these, at least twenty-nine use recycled fiber. This surge in capacity has resulted in a concurrent rise in profits. The price per Ton of waste paper has quadrupled in the past year, as have the prices of corrugated cardboard and used newsprint. Trash haulers have benefited from these conditions by combining their trash hauling and recycling operations.

Recycling centers are connected both to the clients to whom they sell end-products and to those from whom they collect refuse; thus, the company gets paid twice for the same trash, once for hauling the waste and once for selling the usable material. Industry profits have increased more than tenfold during this period. As the industry has become more competitive, some haulers have chosen to rebate a portion of this money to their clients in the hopes of ensuring their loyalty.

1. According to the passage, which of the following is a reason for the increase in profits in the trash hauling business?

- (A) Haulers' ability to sell both services and products.
- (B) Money offered by haulers to preferred customers.
- (C) Foresight exhibited by the leaders of the industry.
- (D) Haulers' willingness to adapt technology to a changing industry.
- (E) Passage of stricter environmental legislation.

2. It can be inferred from the passage that the price of waste paper

- (A) will increase steadily over the next few years
- (B) will increase as more companies get involved in the industry
- (C) is closely related to the availability of trash haulers
- (D) is not as important to trash haulers as the price they charge for hauling waste
- (E) is sometimes set by the weight of the product

3. The author of the passage would most likely agree with which of the following?

- A. Competition between trash haulers and recyclers will prevent the recycled paper industry from reaching its full economic potential.
- B. Pressure from anti-environmental groups has increased pressure on the government to oppose recycled paper initiatives.
- C. The recycled paper industry may continue to grow at its present rate as long as the industry remains profitable.

- D. The profit-seeking of recyclers have overshadowed environmental concerns in the recycled paper industry.
- E. Government negligence prevented the recycled paper industry from becoming successful until the early 1990's.

4. According to the passage, all of the following are results of the increase in the number of new mills using recycled fiber except
- A. The price of waste paper has risen dramatically.
 - B. Trash haulers are earning increased revenues.
 - C. Profits at recycling centers have increased more than tenfold.
 - D. The price of corrugated cardboard has risen.
 - E. Trash haulers have been forced to compete with recyclers.

Answer key:

1. (B). Who made a deposit? You can't tell. *They* is the only pronoun that creates a clear reference and agreement.

2. (C). Use the 2/3 split. The pronoun refers to *the average Girl Scout*, so it should be *she*. Eliminate (A) and (B). One difference among the others is *has* vs. *had*. vs. *was*. The verb tense needs to be consistent with *joins*, so use *has* and choose (C).

3. (C). The Netherlands is an *it* (as is the United States) not a *they*. Eliminate (A) and (B). (D) terminates the Netherlands, always a bad idea. (E) is passive, so choose the active (C).

4. (E). Step 1: The 2/3 split shown in italics (which doesn't happen on the real test) is *they* vs. *the codes*. You want *the codes* because *they* is ambiguous; it could refer to *brokers* or *codes*. Step 2: Eliminate (A), (B), and (C). Step 3: The difference between (D) and (E) is *able to be*. Codes aren't able (only people are), so choose (E).

5. (D). (A) has a misplaced modifier because it suggests that the troopers were *tame and intelligent*. (B), (C), and (E) change the words around a little, but they still repeat this error. (D) fixes the misplaced modifier by turning the phrase into a clause. The pronoun *it* is okay because the only noun it could match is *the loose gorilla*.

6. (D). Subject is *The number*, which is singular (*a number* is plural). Eliminate (A), (B), and (C). (D) is shorter and simpler than (E).

7. (A). The idiom is *see/saw...as* and only (A) gets it right.

8. (C). *Support for the argument* are the identifying words. C: Increase egg consumption with health ads. P: None worth mentioning. A: Health is an issue for potential egg-eaters. (A) and (B) aren't bad, but they require you to infer a connection between eggs, health, and consumers' concerns rather than stating it outright. (C) clearly shows consumers are concerned with eggs' health effects. (D) weakens the argument. (E) is out of scope.

9. (A) ID the question: *Assumption* is an obvious key word. Work the argument: C: If people maintain the new priorities (changes in diet), the length and quality of their lives will increase. P: People are making changes to their diets (a subsidiary conclusion) because they'd rather be fit than eat foods that are filling and taste good. Gap: better diet—longer life and changes to diet—filling, good-tasting foods. POE: (B) is irrelevant. If anything, this weakens by suggesting that changes in diet aren't enough. (C) is irrelevant. This goes along with the general idea, but it's not strictly necessary. In (D), the time of discovery is irrelevant. In (E), the goals of most citizens are irrelevant. You're only interested in the people who are acting on their goals. (A) fills in the assumption needed to make the subsidiary conclusion true. If eating filling, good-tasting foods is inconsistent with staying in shape and looking fit, people who want to stay in shape and be fit are willing to give them up. They will maintain good habits and live longer, better lives.

10. (A) ID the question: *Assume* is an obvious key word. Work the argument: C: Sales of umbrellas at subway exits while it's raining will be greater than normal sales. P: People will be forced to buy umbrellas if they don't want to get wet. A: They don't have umbrellas with them. They are unwilling to get wet. POE: In (B), profitability of normally priced umbrellas is irrelevant. In (C), sales of normally priced umbrellas are irrelevant. (D) doesn't deal with the issue. (E) looks good, but it's not right. Potential customers might have umbrellas, but the issue is whether they have an umbrella with them. (A) makes the link. If it's raining and you don't have an umbrella, you feel the pressure to make a purchase. On some assumption questions, you may have a lot of difficulty spotting the necessary assumption due to the way the answers are worded. This is particularly true with answer choices containing negative words such as *not* and *never*. One way to check whether an answer choice is a necessary assumption is to negate, or reverse, that answer. If the negation would weaken the argument, that answer is a necessary assumption.

11. (C) ID the question: The key words are *casts the most doubt*. Work the argument: C: The company will install the faster platform on its computer system. P: The company can't process its records fast enough anymore. Gap: New platform—fixing current problems. A: (1) Speed won't compromise accuracy; (2) the computer can run the program. (C) attacks assumption #2. (B) strengthens the argument; (A) is irrelevant (what if the platform the company has in mind can do the job?). (D) only addresses the company's expansion, and (E) is irrelevant.

12. (D) ID the question: The key words are *most seriously weakened*. Work the argument: C: The idea that government regulation hinders profits is invalid. P: From 1975–1985, when government regulation was very active, the average net worth of American families rose. Gap: Business profits—families' net worth. A: The profitability of businesses caused the average net worth of American families to rise. (D) provides an alternate reason why families were richer. (A) Is 80% better or worse than normal? Irrelevant. (B) Isn't strong enough because it doesn't list bankruptcies as a percentage of the whole. (C) Is out of the scope. If (E) were true, how would average net worth of families rise?

13. (D) Identify the question: The key word is *strengthen*. Work the argument: C: A recession is caused only by a national loss of confidence. P: If people think the economy is sluggish, they won't invest. (D) strengthens the link between investor confidence and economic growth by stating that greater investment strengthens the economy. (A) and (B) weaken the conclusion by offering other causes for a recession. (C) is backward; we don't care what recessions cause; we care what causes a recession. In (E), economic stability is never mentioned.

14. (D) Read the question carefully. It asks you to support the analyst's position, not the CEO's. The analysts argue that the CEO is wrong to say that increase in passengers on partner airlines is evidence that the program is working to increase revenues. P: The joint frequent flier program allows miles earned on partner airlines to be combined for reward tickets on any airline. There's been an increase in the number of passengers on the partner airlines. You need to show that the frequent flier plan is NOT increasing revenues for Sky Air. POE: (A) is irrelevant. (B) is irrelevant. (C) goes along the CEO's position, not that of the analysts. (E) supports the CEO's position. Only (D) supports the analysts' position.

15. (B) Another common subject-verb agreement issue arises when a sentence has a compound subject. The split is *agree/agrees*. With *neither...nor*, the verb agrees with the subject closest to it, so *father* is the subject. Eliminate choices with plural verbs. (A), (C), and (D) are out. Choice (E) contains awkward, unidiomatic wording (*English professors the both of them*). (B) is the answer.

16. (D) *The number/a number* is an ETS favorite. A *number* is plural; eliminate (A) and (B). The next split is *attribute...as/attribute...to*. The idiom is *attribute to*, so (C) and (E) are out. (D) is the answer.

17. (B) The tense shifts in the answer choices. Two events happened in the past, and one happened earlier than the other did (Smith championed the charity, and then he changed his mind). The past perfect tense is best to convey this meaning. (A), (C), (D), and (E) don't use the correct tense. Choose (B).

18. (E) This example has modifier problems because *only* moves around in the answer choices and because of the *select/selected* split. *Only* should emphasize a *select few scientists*. However, it's probably easier to work the subject-verb error first. Start with the *leave/leaves* or *occur/occurs* split. The subject, *swarm*, is singular. Eliminate (A) and (C) because *occurs* is plural. Eliminate (B) because *portions* does not agree with *leaves*. The choice between (D) and (E) comes down to meaning. *Selected* means a group chosen by someone, while *select* means a special group. (E) is better at conveying the meaning of a small group of scientists who have been lucky enough to witness the swarm.

19. (C) The errors are tense (*announce/announces/had announced*) and quantity words (*amount/number*). Programs are countable and should be modified by number. Eliminate (A), (B), and (D). Since the action occurs every February, it's ongoing, and present tense is best. Eliminate (E).

20. (C) There's a comparative vs. superlative split (*more/most*). The sentence compares more than two things (*Numerous decisions*), so choose *most*. Eliminate (A), (B), and (E). (D) is unidiomatic and unnecessarily wordy, so (C) is the best answer.

21. (E) This one is tricky because *withholding* is a red herring. The three verbs are *cut*, *changed*, and *redesigned*. (A) and (B) have pronoun trouble because *company* is singular; therefore, the proper pronoun is *it*. (C) and (D) aren't parallel. (E) is the answer.

22. (E) Ideally, you want the list to have three adjectives. However, there's no form of *aspiring* that fits in the sentence. You're left looking for the answer that sucks the least. You can keep the two adjectives and refer to *aspire* separately. (A), (B), and (D) are not parallel, and the two *and*'s in (C) are redundant. For parallel construction in lists, use the "apples to apples, oranges to oranges" mnemonic.

23. (B) The *either/or* option of deciding or refusing needs parallel construction. (A), (C), and (E) are not parallel. (E) uses the gerund form *the refusing*, which is not parallel to the verb *deciding*. (D) does not make the options clear. (B) keeps *by deciding* and *by refusing* parallel.

24. (E) This example serves as a lead-in to idiom errors. *Not only...but also* demands parallel construction. (B) and (C) don't have the correct idiom. (A) and (D) are not parallel. (E) keeps *restricts* and *allows* parallel.

25. (D) The idiom is *consider...(nothing)*, so eliminate everything but (D). The changing prepositions at the beginning of each answer are the giveaway.

26. (D) The Results aren't all bad because they will require stricter conversation laws. Use POE to eliminate the other answers. (A) The author never encourages ozone depletion. Also, *should* is extreme. (B) Level of government is never mentioned. Also, *should* is extreme. (C) Synthetics aren't mentioned and *should* is extreme. (E) The relative positive/ negative balance is not mentioned and *far outweighed* is extreme.

27. (D) Conclusion: The American division should sell the thick- soled shoes. Premise: The thick- soled shoes are selling like crazy in Sweden. Assumption: Americans and Swedes have comparable tastes in shoes.

28. (C) The second sentence connects the propensity to recycle to age. So, (c) is true. (A) We don't know anything about the potential amount of recycling. (B) Waste disposal is too general; we only know about recycling. (D) We don't know about overall population, only the age distribution within the population. (E) We don't know about these people in the past.

29. (C) State colleges can lower their tuition costs because the federal and state funds cover some of the colleges' costs. The two must therefore be related. (A) fits with the real world, but the argument never mentions it. (B) never mentioned. (D) never mentioned, and *always* is extreme. (E) might seem to make sense, but we don't know private colleges raise their funds. If they were to lower tuition, they could make up for it firing teachers or making other cutbacks.

30. (C) The author's impression of a reward is different from the more widely held belief. In the author's estimation, a job well done is the reward. *Extrinsic to the task* means that the work isn't enough. You need to get a prize.

31. (E) C: Employee salaries must be reduced. P: We want to increase profits. If we reduce salaries, profits will increase. In its general form the argument says, "If A, then B. Want B, so do A." (A), (B), and (C) don't match. (D) might look attractive because it mentions salaries. However, don't be drawn to answer choices that use words or topics similar to those in the question. In fact, they're usually wrong. (E) matches. C: The number of commercials should be increased. P: The number of television watchers should be reduced. If there were more commercials, the number of television watchers would decline.

32. (D) *Each* is a singular pronoun, so *each.... were* doesn't agree; (A) dies. (C) has the same problem, because *every* is also singular. (B) and (E) create sentence fragments without a main subject/ verb arrangement.

33. (C) Get rid of (A) right away, because *the ones* is awkward. The idiom is *ability to*, not *ability of*. Use the 2/3 split and get rid of (A) and (E). When you refer to people, it's proper to use *who*, not *that*; eliminate (B) and (D). (D) also has a split infinitive (which we'll also talk about later).

34. (A) The idiom is not so much _____ as _____, and (A) is parallel; *not so much by...as by*.

Answer for RC 1

1 (B). Make a map of the passage. There are no contradictions that are being talked about, so A is out. The passage is not testing any model hence C is out. D is a trap answer it talks about "traditional ideology" while the passage is about "corporate ideology" and traditional views. Option E is out as no conflicting explanation for a phenomenon has been discussed in the passage.

2 (B). Option (E) is out as too extreme. The author's attitude is not critical or negative hence options (A) and (D) are out. (C) is a trap answer as it uses language from the passage – dilemma .

3 (A). Option (B) is out as the author is not asserting himself. Option C is not correct as there are no evaluations being made. (D) is a trap answer as it talks about historical overview . A student would be attracted to this answer as the first paragraph talks about traditional view, gives dates and events etc. (E) is again not the correct option as no new theory is being described.

Answers for RC 2

1. (A). Look for the cause of increased profits for trash haulers. This is discussed in lines 16-22. (A) paraphrases the idea that the companies haul the trash (services) and sell the recycled paper (products). (B) is a trap because *preferred customers* is a recognizable phrase from a different part of the passage. (C), (D), and (E) are all out of scope.

2. (E). Look for the price of waste paper. It's discussed in lines 14-16. In step 3, students will answer that prices have increased a lot. (A) and (B) come close to that, but they make predictions rather than describing the past. (C) and (D) are out of scope. (E) is true (price per ton), even though it may seem trivial.

3.(C). (A) says the opposite of the passage: they cooperate more than they compete. (B), (D), and (E) are all out of scope. (C) isn't great, but it's probably true (you gotta love *may*) and consistent with the author's description.

4. (E). With EXCEPT questions, find each of the wrong answers in the passage before you cross them off. The remaining, correct answer may either contradict the passage or just be out of scope. (A) is supported by lines 14-16. (B) is supported by lines 20-23. (C) is supported by lines 22-23. (D) is supported by lines 15-16. (E) contradicts the idea of cooperation between trash haulers and recyclers.

