

TSA W3 S2 Answers

Question One

Did not cause too much difficulty. The final sentence here gives away that the most reliable conclusion to draw is that “the universe” and “man-made objects” cannot be assumed to have similar causes merely by virtue of alleged similarity. Therefore, the answer is B.

Question Two

Here, the argument sets out two possible explanations: UFOs or humans. The argument as a whole is dismissive of the idea of UFOs (“fanciful claims can fortunately be dismissed”) and portrays the human-made explanation as simple (“nothing more elaborate” and “a widespread and well-documented human urge”). The underlying assumption is therefore clearly along the lines of the simple explanation being better than the more complex one, an idea similar to Occam’s Razor, as we discussed in class. The best expression of that assumption is clearly A.

Question Three

Everyone got this correct! Here, the argument suggests that an alarm box would be a deterrent against burglary. You are therefore looking for a flaw which cuts against this main point. The best answer is therefore clearly C, since it suggests that in fact an alarm box might actually incentivise burglars to rob that house.

Question Four

A classic example of a question where too much information is provided and you have to work out what is required.

Raoul begins with a \$10,000 car in Year 0 (Y0). He puts \$10,000 in the bank to pay for the next car in 8 years time. The car’s price rises 8% per year and savings rise at only 6% per year.

Therefore, we look to see how much \$1000 will be worth in 8 years with 8% inflation: \$1851. Since he needs \$10,000, we multiply that by 10 to get \$18,510.

We also need to see how much \$1000 will be worth in 8 years with 6% interest: \$1594, multiplied again by 10 to get \$15940.

Therefore he will have \$15940 in his account after 8 years, and the car will cost \$18510. The difference will be the answer, which is B: \$2570.

Question Five

This did pose some difficulties for students. The flaw in the argument is that there is an implausible and stark distinction between “proper policing”, which involves “protecting citizens and upholding law and order” and simply “road traffic”, which is about “obtaining money from road users”, like traffic wardens. This is crazy! Road traffic police do protect citizens by catching speeding civilians and uphold order by requiring people not to drive dangerously. The answer is therefore A.

Question Six

Nice and simple. If X then Y. Not X therefore Not Y. Y is soon, so I must X very hard. Everyone saw that the only answer which mirrors that structure accurately is B!

Question Seven

Another “too much information” question. In 1971, there are 18% living in 1 person households and 32% living in 2 person households, for a total of 50%. (Note that you do not include 3 person households, as you need to know how many houses have *fewer than 3 people*). In 1991, there is 27% and 34% respectively, for a total of 61%. The difference between those two is 11%, which is therefore the answer.

Question Eight

Everyone got this correct. The argument’s thrust is set out by the rhetorical questions: “Why not see the fall in house prices as a welcome change?”. The answer is therefore E, which paraphrases this view nice and simply: we should view the fall in house prices as a good thing.

Question Nine

A fun and tricky question! The easiest way to see the answer is that United have Won 1, Drawn 1, and Lost 1. County have Won 1, Drawn 2, and Lost 1.

There are four “Draws” in the column: United have 1, City have 1, and County have 2. This naturally means that there were two Drawn matches, and County must have played in both of them. Since Rovers and Wanderers have no draws, County must have drawn against both United and City.

This narrows down our options to D (a 1-1 draw) or A (a 0-0 draw). How can we decide between these two? We can see that United have only two goals for them, and that they have won two games. What you need to now realise is that you can only win a football game if you score a goal! (If you don’t score any goals, the best result you can have is a 0-0 draw). Therefore, if they have won two games and scored two goals overall, they must have won both games 1-0. This means they will have no spare “goals” for a draw. That means that the draw between United and County must have been a 0-0 draw, therefore A.

Question Ten

Tricky because, in my opinion, the question is poorly phrased.

120 people were given a placebo: of those, 24 managed to quit regardless.

120 people were given nicotine: of those, 56 managed to quit.

“The researchers assumed that, of the smokers given nicotine tablets, the same proportion would have quit without using them as would have quit using the placebo”. This means we can subtract 24 smokers who managed to quit regardless from the 56 who managed to quit with nicotine, which gives us 32. Therefore, B.

Question Eleven

Here the quickest way to get the correct answer is to eliminate obviously incorrect answers.

Here, E weakens the argument; D is irrelevant; A is irrelevant; and B is irrelevant. This quickly establishes that C is the only plausible answer; if Police Drivers can sustain faster average speeds, then that is another good reason for them not to give up once they lose sight of the pursued vehicle.

Open Questions

Quite good answers to these questions, though they predominantly focused on “free speech”.

This saw a good discussion of what kind of punishments or sanctions might make speech “unfree” in a relevant sense, and whether “freedom of speech” and “freedom from consequences” could be reconciled. Answers on the nuclear weapons front discussed a country’s right to defend itself if attacked; these answers could have been improved by discussing the safety risks and risks of inadvertent nuclear war or rogue actors (e.g. terrorists).