

Link to questions:

<https://www.admissionstesting.org/images/304534-tsa-oxford-2015-section-1.pdf>

Question One

A nice easy one to begin which did not challenge anyone! The argument is that counterfeit medicines are dangerous and “this should now be remedied”. Only E expresses this conclusion.

Question Two

Also not too hard. Woman puts £8.50 into phone with 25 coins, only 50ps and 10ps. You can quickly work out by trial and error that this must be 15 50ps and 10 10ps; you can also set it up as a simultaneous equation but it takes a little longer. The machine gives back 5 10ps, which means it keeps 15 50ps and 5 10ps. Only answer D reflects that ratio of 50s to 10s!

Question Three

Slightly harder. The answer to this is B; the argument posed in the question rests on the assumption that people who do not vote can be assumed to not support the government. The people who didn't vote might still support the government - they just might be too lazy or uninterested in politics to go and show it by voting for them!

Question Four

A relatively easy one. The argument suggests that at least one shop (i.e. John Lewis) can use sentimental marketing successfully (as figures show JL outperforms rivals). However, it also suggests that other companies would be criticised if they did the same thing. Note that the question asks what can be drawn as a conclusion, not what the main conclusion is. We *can* conclude E: because in John Lewis' hands, the appeal to sentiment is successful!

Question Five

Also relatively simple. The argument suggests that “extremist parties cause war. If we teach about extremist parties, we can reduce wars”. That clearly suggests that by teaching about extremist parties and the link with war, fewer people will vote for the extremist parties. Therefore, C!

Question Six

Slightly trickier. First, William wants it medium rare. He is cooking for five people (himself and four others). We need 300g of meat per person. Therefore 1500g of meat overall.

He cooks it in a hot oven which says 15mins + (15 minutes for each 500g, of which we have three), which is one hour. He must then allow meat to stand for ten minutes: 1hr 10.

He is also going to cook potatoes in same oven, which requires 30 minutes.

1hr 10m minus 30 minutes = 40 minutes, therefore D.

Question Seven

Who can we eliminate first? Grace has been late for lessons more than twice. Andrew and Edward have failed to complete more than two pieces of homework by deadline That leaves Carole and Ian. Who has the fewest non-A grade pieces of work? Here is the trick: although Carole has more As than Ian does, Carole has been set 56 pieces of homework and has only 53 As, so 3 non-As; Ian has been set 54 homeworks and (at most) 2 non-As. So Ian! (E)

Question Eight

Here is a question where they give you way too much information and require you to work out what is relevant!

The most important piece of information is that they show you the Northern Polar graph, and then tell you that this should be flipped to show the southern hemisphere graph in polar regions (since it tells you that plankton production depends on ST and sunlight amount). You are therefore looking for a flipped version of Northern Polar, which is D!

Question Nine

Somewhat simpler. As discussed in class, the data shows that people who carry guns are more likely to get shot. It then goes on to argue that it is safer not to carry a gun.

However, this is probably a case of correlation and not causation. People who are already likely to get shot for various reasons (e.g. security guards, bodyguards, police officers, criminals) will want to have a gun to make them safer; it is not the case that having the gun makes them more likely to get shot! This is expressed by C.

Question Ten

In my view this question is very strange. The answer is meant to be B. The idea is that there might be lots of reasons we have recurring dreams, and just because it “makes good sense” to think of them as messages from your unconscious, that doesn’t make the explanation true.

Question Eleven

Nice and simple. The thrust of the argument is “To be truly happy now, we should devote more time to the activities that dominated life [thousands of years ago]”. That is mirrored in D.

Question Twelve

We can eliminate false propositions here until we reach a correct one!

A is **false** because those Age 25-35 prefer Drink B.

B is **true** because $(20+31+33+19)=(\mathbf{103}) > (33+12+22+34) (\mathbf{101})$ (note that to simplify this equation you can knock the two "33s" out)