Book 2

Mastering Thinking Skills

Selective and Scholarship Tests

- Enhances higher-order and critical thinking skills
- Improves knowledge and decision-making in problem solving
- Develops mental, cognitive and strategic abilities

A
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Yvonne Kang

SAMPLE

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SAMPLE

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Test 1

1. A study showed how prevalent plastic pollution has become worldwide. Single use plastic bags are virtually everywhere, and they may take one hundred years or more to break down once in the wild. Because of this people believe that using cloth bags is better for the environment. To produce a cloth bag, millions of tonnes of chemicals must be used to achieve the ideal material, thickness, colour and design. These chemicals are ultimately dumped into natural habitats, doing the same thing to the environment as plastic bags.

   If the above passage is true, which of the following statement best **weakens** the argument?

   A The production of plastic bags is so well established, one factory can produce millions of bags in one day.

   B Reusing cloth bags up to 100 times will cause less damage to the environment than plastic bags.

   C Plastic bags are less heavy than cloth bags and are also easier to carry and take up less space.

   D The production of cloth bags involves many chemical substances which will damage the ocean.

2. **Michael**: "In order to improve children's wellbeing, 'soft drinks' should be banned at school canteens."

   Which one of these statements, if true, most **strengthens** Michael's argument?

   A Students who buy soft drinks at canteen will be unsupervised and are likely to be an annoyance in the area.

   B This will reduce the number of students buying soft drinks and may not be beneficial to the school.

   C Soft drinks are a major cause of obesity and poor health in children and may reduce their concentration in the classroom.

   D Students can't go home for lunch so it is important that there is somewhere they can buy something to drink.

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3. Mia's school was choosing students to represent them in an art competition. As well as considering their basic art skills, the school set them a practical exam and a theory quiz.

   If a student had at least some basic art skills, then they only had to pass the practical exam. If they had none, then they either needed to get a score above 80% on the practical exam, or pass in both the practical exam and the theory quiz.

   Katie is an experienced artist but failed to pass. What must have been the reason?

   A She did badly in the theory quiz.

   B She did not score above 80% in the practical exam.

   C She failed her practical exam.

   D She barely passed her practical exam and the theory quiz.

4. In a survey of favourite foods of Year 6 students, everyone who liked pizza liked hamburgers. Everyone who liked hamburgers liked chicken, but no one who liked hamburgers liked vegetables.

   Steven, Bella, Jessica and Tracey all took part in the survey.

   Based on the above information, which one of the following must be true?

   A If Steven likes chicken, he also likes hamburgers.

   B If Bella does not like vegetables, she does not like chicken.

   C If Tracey likes pizza, she does not like vegetables.

   D If Jessica does not like pizza, he does not like hamburgers.

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5. Five sisters all have their birthday in a different month and each on a different day of the week.

   - Nobody has their birthday on the weekend.
   - Paula was born in April but does not have her birthday on Friday.
   - Abigail's birthday is on Wednesday.
   - Tara has her birthday after Brenda, whose birthday isn't on Friday.
   - Abigail was born in a month before Paula.
   - The girl whose birthday is on Tuesday was born earlier in the year than Mary.
   - The girl who was born in June has her birthday on Friday.
   - Mary was born in the month with less than 30 days.
   - Paula has her birthday on a day that begins with T.

   Using the information above, who was born in January?

   A Abigail

   B Brenda

   C Mary

   D Paula

6. There are twenty roles available in the school band. Joshua's teacher has stated that those who can play two instruments have a higher chance of getting a role in the band.

   Joshua: "Well, I can only play piano. This means I don't have a chance of getting a role in the school band when I audition."

   Which one of the following sentences shows the **mistake** Joshua has made?

   A There are no professional pianists in the school, so Joshua still has a chance.

   B There are only ten two-instrument players in the school, so Joshua has a very high chance of getting a role.

   C Piano is the most important and essential instrument in a band.

   D Just because two-instrument players have a higher chance of getting a role, does not mean Joshua has no chance.

SAMPLE

Solutions

TEST 1

1. **B**: The argument is claiming that the cloth bags are not better than plastic bags and harm the environment similarly. To weaken the argument, the statement needs to be supporting the use of cloth bags.
2. **C**: Michael's argument claims that soft drinks have a negative impact on the health of children. Option C outlines exactly why soft drinks are bad for the human body.
3. **C**: With at least basic art skills, the first requirement to pass is the practical exam. Since Sophie is an experienced artist but failed, she must have failed her practical exam.
4. **C**: If Tracey likes pizza, she likes hamburgers, and chicken, but doesn't like vegetables. If a person likes pizza, that person likes hamburgers and chicken, too. However, this does not mean that if that person likes hamburgers, they must like pizza. It is not the same if it goes the other way around.
5. **B**: Paula: April & Thursday
   Abigail: March & Wednesday
   Tara: June & Friday
   Brenda: January & Tuesday
   Mary: February & Monday
6. **D**: Two-instrument players have a higher chance of getting the role, but this doesn't mean single instrument players don't have a chance.
7. **C**:

Most hints received	Fastest to finish
Jason	Emma
Hannah / Arthur	Mark
Hannah / Arthur	Hannah / Arthur
Mark	Hannah / Arthur
Emma	Jason

8. **D**: The claim is about how the invention of motion picture is changing human cultural life. The statement about the youngsters like watching movies and TV most strengthens Sam's claim as they are easily influenced by what they see.
9. **C**: There are 15 people in the group. For groups of size 13 – 20 people, the total cost = (5 × $16) + (10 × $19) = $270.

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