

Sample GMAT Verbal Questions (Critical Reasoning)

Questions 21-30: Inference/Conclusion

21. **Question:** A recent survey of residents in the town of Springfield showed that a majority of them are dissatisfied with the condition of the town's roads. At the same time, the survey revealed that most residents are satisfied with the performance of the town's mayor.
- Which of the following can be most properly concluded from the information above?
- A. The mayor is not responsible for the condition of the town's roads.
 - B. The mayor has not been a good leader for the town of Springfield.
 - C. The residents of Springfield do not blame the mayor for the poor road conditions.
 - D. A majority of the residents of Springfield would vote to re-elect the current mayor.
 - E. The town's roads will not be repaired in the near future.
22. **Question:** A company manufactures two types of widgets: Widget A and Widget B. In the last quarter, the company sold more units of Widget A than of Widget B. However, the company's profit from Widget B was higher than its profit from Widget A.
- Which of the following can be most properly concluded from the information above?
- A. Widget A is more expensive to produce than Widget B.
 - B. The company charged a higher price for each unit of Widget B than for each unit of Widget A.
 - C. The company's total revenue from Widget A was less than its total revenue from Widget B.
 - D. The profit margin for Widget B is greater than the profit margin for Widget A.
 - E. The company sold fewer units of Widget B because it is less popular than Widget A.
23. **Question:** A recent study of a group of mice found that those who were fed a diet rich in a specific vitamin had a longer average lifespan than those who were not.
- Which of the following is most strongly supported by the information above?
- A. The vitamin is essential for a longer lifespan in mice.
 - B. The mice who were fed the vitamin-rich diet did not have any other dietary differences from the other group.
 - C. The consumption of the vitamin is correlated with a longer lifespan in mice.
 - D. The vitamin will also increase the lifespan of humans.
 - E. The mice who were fed the vitamin-rich diet were healthier in all respects.
24. **Question:** A new public art installation has been created in the city center. It is made from recycled materials and is visually appealing. It is also designed to collect rainwater, which will then be used to water the surrounding plants.
- Which of the following is most strongly supported by the information above?
- A. The public art installation is the most environmentally friendly object in the city center.
 - B. The city is committed to creating more public art installations in the future.
 - C. The public art installation has both an aesthetic and a practical function.
 - D. The new art installation is more popular with residents than previous installations.
 - E. The rainwater collected by the installation is safe for human consumption.

25. **Question:** A company that sells premium coffee beans has seen a decrease in sales. The company's CEO believes this is due to a new competitor that offers a cheaper alternative. However, a recent survey shows that the company's loyal customers have not switched to the new competitor.
- Which of the following can be most properly concluded from the information above?
- A. The company's decrease in sales is not due to its loyal customers switching to the competitor.
 - B. The new competitor is not the reason for the company's decrease in sales.
 - C. The company's new competitor has not been successful in attracting any customers.
 - D. The company's decrease in sales is a result of a general economic downturn.
 - E. The company's prices are too high for most people.
26. **Question:** In the past decade, the average salary for a graphic designer has increased by 10%, while the average salary for a web developer has increased by 20%.
- Which of the following can be properly inferred from the information above?
- A. A web developer now earns more than a graphic designer.
 - B. Ten years ago, the average salary for a graphic designer was higher than that for a web developer.
 - C. The demand for web developers has increased more than the demand for graphic designers.
 - D. The average salary for both professions has increased.
 - E. Web developers are more skilled than graphic designers.
27. **Question:** The city has recently implemented a new program to encourage residents to use public transportation. As part of this program, the city has made all bus rides free for the next six months.
- Which of the following is most strongly supported by the information above?
- A. The city expects the number of people using public transportation to increase.
 - B. The city expects to lose a significant amount of money on its public transportation system.
 - C. The city will be able to reduce the number of buses it operates.
 - D. The city has a large budget surplus.
 - E. The program will not be successful in the long run.
28. **Question:** A new study found that students who listen to classical music while studying perform better on tests than those who study in silence. The researchers concluded that classical music has a positive effect on learning.
- Which of the following is most strongly supported by the information above?
- A. All students should listen to classical music while studying.
 - B. Listening to classical music is the best way to improve test performance.
 - C. There is a correlation between listening to classical music and better test performance.
 - D. The students who listened to classical music were also more intelligent than the other students.
 - E. The study was conducted on a representative sample of students.
29. **Question:** A company has decided to switch its primary advertising medium from television to online streaming services. The company's CEO believes this is the most effective way to reach its target demographic, which consists of people aged 18-34.
- Which of the following is most strongly supported by the information above?

- A. The company's target demographic does not watch television.
 - B. People aged 18-34 are more likely to watch online streaming services than traditional television.
 - C. The cost of advertising on online streaming services is less than the cost of advertising on television.
 - D. The company's CEO is an expert in marketing.
 - E. The company's previous television advertising campaigns were unsuccessful.
30. **Question:** A new law was passed that requires all restaurants to display the calorie count of each item on their menus. The law's proponents argue that this will lead to people making healthier food choices.
- Which of the following is most strongly supported by the information above?
- A. The law will not be successful in encouraging healthier food choices.
 - B. People are not aware of the calorie content of the food they eat.
 - C. The law is intended to influence people's food choices.
 - D. The calorie counts on the menus will be accurate.
 - E. The law will cause restaurants to offer more low-calorie options.

Inference/Conclusion

21. Correct Answer: C.
 Explanation: The information provided shows two facts: residents are dissatisfied with the roads, but they are satisfied with the mayor. This implies that there is a disconnect between the two. The only conclusion that can be properly drawn is that the residents do not hold the mayor accountable for the condition of the roads. You cannot infer that the mayor is or is not responsible (A), that they are a good leader (B), or that they will be re-elected (D). The future of the roads (E) cannot be concluded either.
22. Correct Answer: D.
 Explanation: The argument provides two facts: more units of Widget A were sold, but more profit was made from Widget B. Profit is calculated as (revenue - cost). Profit per unit (profit margin) is what determines this outcome. Since fewer units of B were sold but it generated more profit, the profit per unit (or profit margin) of Widget B must be higher than that of Widget A. Option B, while plausible, is not a necessary conclusion—a lower cost of production for B could also explain the difference.
23. Correct Answer: C.
 Explanation: The study found a relationship between consuming the vitamin and a longer lifespan. This is a statement of correlation. The study does not prove causation (A), nor does it give us enough information to assume no other dietary differences (B), or to extrapolate to humans (D), or to conclude overall health (E). The safest and most accurate conclusion is that a correlation was found.
24. Correct Answer: C.
 Explanation: The passage describes two aspects of the installation: it is visually appealing (an aesthetic function) and it is designed to collect rainwater for plants (a practical function). Therefore, the most direct and proper conclusion is that it has both an aesthetic and a practical purpose. The other options make claims that go beyond the given information.

25. Correct Answer: A.

Explanation: The CEO's hypothesis is that the sales decrease is due to the new competitor. However, the survey shows that the company's loyal customers have not switched. This directly undermines the CEO's hypothesis only as it relates to loyal customers. Therefore, the most proper conclusion is that the decrease in sales is not caused by loyal customers switching. The other options make broader claims that cannot be supported by the given information.

26. Correct Answer: D.

Explanation: The information states that the average salary for both professions has increased—one by 10% and the other by 20%. This is the only fact that can be definitively inferred. You cannot conclude who earns more (A) because you don't know the starting salaries. You cannot conclude the past salary (B) for the same reason. You cannot infer anything about demand (C) or skill level (E).

27. Correct Answer: A.

Explanation: The city's action is part of a program to encourage residents to use public transportation. Making it free is a clear incentive. Therefore, the city must expect that this incentive will work and that the number of people using public transport will increase. The other options are either not supported (C, D) or contradict the stated goal of the program (B, E).

28. Correct Answer: C.

Explanation: The study found that students who listened to music performed better. This is a finding of correlation. The study does not prove that the music causes the better performance, nor does it prove that it's the best way to improve performance. The safest and most accurate conclusion is that there is a correlation between the two.

29. Correct Answer: B.

Explanation: The company is switching to online advertising to reach a specific demographic (18-34). The unstated assumption that makes this a logical move is that the target demographic is more likely to be reached through online streaming than through traditional television. Therefore, the most proper conclusion is that the company believes that this demographic is more likely to watch online streaming.

30. Correct Answer: C.

Explanation: The law's proponents argue that displaying calorie counts will lead to healthier choices. Regardless of whether this will work, the fact that they are making this argument shows that the intention of the law is to influence people's food choices. This is the only conclusion that can be definitively drawn from the information.