

## Examples from the LSAT

1. Because the statement “all gray rabbits are rabbits” is true, it follows by analogy that the statement “all suspected criminals are criminals” is also true.

The reasoning above is flawed because it fails to recognize that

- (A) the relationship between being a criminal and being a rabbit is not of the same kind as that between being suspected and being gray
- (B) the relationship between being suspected and being a rabbit is not of the same kind as that between being gray and being a criminal
- (C) the relationship between being a gray rabbit and being a rabbit is not of the same kind as that between being a suspected criminal and being a criminal
- (D) not all rabbits are gray
- (E) not all criminals are suspected

12. Politician: Those economists who claim that consumer price increases have averaged less than 3 percent over the last year are mistaken. They clearly have not shopped anywhere recently. Gasoline is up 10 percent over the last year; my auto insurance, 12 percent; newspapers, 15 percent; propane, 13 percent; bread, 50 percent.

The reasoning in the politician’s argument is most vulnerable to criticism on the grounds that the argument

- (A) impugns the character of the economists rather than addressing their arguments
- (B) fails to show that the economists mentioned are not experts in the area of consumer prices
- (C) mistakenly infers that something is not true from the claim that it has not been shown to be so
- (D) uses evidence drawn from a small sample that may well be unrepresentative
- (E) attempts to persuade by making an emotional appeal

13. Researcher: People with certain personality disorders have more theta brain waves than those without such disorders. But my data show that the amount of one’s theta brain waves increases while watching TV. So watching too much TV increases one’s risk of developing personality disorders.

A questionable aspect of the reasoning above is that it

- (A) uses the phrase “personality disorders” ambiguously
- (B) fails to define the phrase “theta brain waves”
- (C) takes correlation to imply a causal connection
- (D) draws a conclusion from an unrepresentative sample of data
- (E) infers that watching TV is a consequence of a personality disorder

3. People with high blood pressure are generally more nervous and anxious than are people who do not have high blood pressure. This fact shows that this particular combination of personality traits—the so-called hypertensive personality—is likely to cause a person with these traits to develop high blood pressure.

The reasoning in the argument is most vulnerable to criticism on the ground that the argument

- (A) fails to define the term “hypertensive personality”
- (B) presupposes that people have permanent personality traits
- (C) simply restates the claim that there is a “hypertensive personality” without providing evidence to support that claim
- (D) takes a correlation between personality traits and high blood pressure as proof that the traits cause high blood pressure
- (E) focuses on nervousness and anxiety only, ignoring other personality traits that people with high blood pressure might have