

Drawing Inferences and Critical Reading Exercises

Arrive at the most logical inference based upon the information given below, and choose the best possible answer for your inference.

1. If you have widely divergent interests, your marriage is not doomed to failure, but on the other hand, do not expect marriage to suddenly present you with interests in common. Your engagement period should provide you with a time for further developing some common interests. You should ask, “Just what do we both like to do?” If one is an avid skier and the other hates sports, it is likely either that one will have to give up the sport or go alone, or that the other will have to tag along or take up the sport under protest—either of which could mean further separation in interests.

With which of the following statements would the author agree?

- A. Common interests would guarantee success in marriage.
 - B. Both marriage partners should like all the things the other likes.
 - C. Common interests enhance marriage; therefore, these should be developed before and during the engagement period.
 - D. If only a few common interests exist, the marriage is likely doomed.
2. Cheating is the ultimate trick a student plays on himself or herself. Aside from the primary point of making an absolute mockery of the purpose of a college education, there is always the fact that there is no way a student can avoid being found out—there is at least one person who will always know.

Which one of the following statements would the author support?

- A. Students should not cheat because someone will always know about it and tell.
 - B. Cheating not only carries the assurance of being discovered but also harms the student.
 - C. Students should not cheat because cheating is a game of mere trickery.
 - D. A certain amount of cheating is to be expected.
3. Which of the following statements is true about critical reading?
 - A. Critical reading involves questioning, comparing, and evaluating reading material.
 - B. Critical reading means automatically taking the opposing viewpoint to that of the author.
 - C. If something is published, it is automatically true.
 - D. You can select the best information for your own purposes by reading only one source on a subject.

4. Which of the following is **not** true of critical reading?
- A. Critical reading is active reading.
 - B. Critical reading helps you make informed decisions and form sound opinions.
 - C. When you read critically, you do not need to find out whether the author is qualified to write on the subject.
 - D. Critical reading involves separating fact from opinion.
5. A man and his son are driving in a car. The car crashes into a tree, killing the father and severely injuring the son. At the hospital, the boy needs surgery. Upon looking at the boy, the surgeon says, "I cannot operate on him. He is my son."

Which of the following is the most logical conclusion to draw from this story?

- A. The surgeon is lying.
 - B. The surgeon is a woman and is the mother of the injured boy.
 - C. The surgeon is lazy.
 - D. The surgeon is too tired to perform the operation.
6. We had six houseguests last weekend. When the guests arrived, two of them couldn't walk into the house. They had to be carried in. Also, they could not speak. Which is the most logical conclusion to draw about these two guests?
- A. They are disabled.
 - B. They are inanimate objects.
 - C. They are babies.
 - D. They are insects.

Decide whether the following statements are fact or opinion.

7. Geology is the most important study in the physical sciences.
- A. Fact
 - B. Opinion
8. Columbus discovered America in 1492.
- A. Fact
 - B. Opinion
9. Baseball is a great deal of fun to watch and play.
- A. Fact
 - B. Opinion
10. Adjectives and adverbs are modifiers of nouns and verbs.

- A. Fact
- B. Opinion