

Free Critical Thinking Test

Arguments

Questions Booklet

Instructions

This practice critical thinking test will assess your ability to make inferences and logical assumptions and to reason with supported arguments.

Read the instructions and answer the questions. There are a total of **25 questions** in this test and you should aim to correctly answer as many questions as you can within **30 minutes**.

Section 1: Arguments

Instructions:

When making important decisions, it is useful to be able to distinguish between a strong argument and a weak argument. A strong argument is both important and directly related to the question. A weak argument is not directly related to the question, or is of minor importance or may be related to a trivial aspect of the question, or confuses correlation with causation (incorrectly assuming that because two things are related, they cause each other to happen).

In this section, a statement is presented to you with an agreeing or disagreeing argument below. You must regard each argument as true, regardless whether it is weak or strong, agrees or disagrees with the statement. The first and second statements will have three arguments each and the third statement will have only two arguments.

If you consider an argument to be strong, select **Strong argument**, or if you consider an argument to be weak, select **Weak argument**. Judge each question and argument individually. Try not to take into account individual opinion or general knowledge since each argument is considered to be true.

Statement One:

Should companies downsize their workforces to decrease expenses and maximise profits?

Q1

Argument One: Yes, downsizing will protect the company from bankruptcy in hard economic times.

Strong Argument

Weak Argument

Q2

Argument Two: Yes, companies have no obligation to employ more people than it can handle.

Strong Argument

Weak Argument

Q3

Argument Three: No, downsizing leads to demoralisation of the workforce and causes a drop in employee productivity.

Strong Argument

Weak Argument

Q4

Argument Four: Yes, companies which have no control over the size of their workforce will be highly vulnerable to economic climates and market changes.

Strong Argument

Weak Argument

Statement Two:

Should university-level education be free to all students?

Q5

Argument One: No, too much education can lead to over-qualification, and therefore unemployment.

Strong Argument
Weak Argument

Q6

Argument Two: Yes, having a highly qualified workforce ensures high levels of employee productivity in organisations.

Strong Argument
Weak Argument

Q7

Argument Three: No, research has shown that students that are not required to pay tuition fees tend to slack off more and learn less during their degree.

Strong Argument
Weak Argument

Statement Three:

Should employers allow all staff the option of flexi-time working hours?

Q8

Argument One: Yes, giving greater flexibility will improve their work-life balance, and therefore their productivity.

Strong Argument
Weak Argument

Q9

Argument Two: Yes, organisation that value their staff are on average more productive and show lower staff turnover.

Strong Argument
Weak Argument

Q10

Argument Three: No, flexi-time leads to employees working fewer hours. Working fewer hours will decrease an employee's exposure to the workplace, making career progression harder and leading to a less experienced workforce.

Strong Argument
Weak Argument

Statement Four:

Should governments implement a minimum wage, outlining a minimum amount an employee is to be paid per hour?

Q11

Argument One: Yes, the existence of minimum wages is a key part of a civilised society.

Strong Argument

Weak Argument

Q12

Argument Two: Yes, countries that do not have a minimum wage are often impoverished and dysfunctional.

Strong Argument

Weak Argument

Q13

Argument Three: No, minimum wage leads to under-employment by forcing companies to take on staff part-time, as they cannot afford to hire them on a full-time basis.

Strong Argument

Weak Argument

Statement Five:

Should banks and financial institutions be obligated to engage in socially-responsible investing?

Q14

Argument One: Yes, engaging in socially responsible investing leads to a happier and more fulfilled workforce compared to banks which do not engage in socially-responsible investing.

Strong Argument
Weak Argument

Q15

Argument Two: No, banks are for-profit institutions and have no obligation to social issues.

Strong Argument
Weak Argument

Q16

Argument Three: No, focusing on social responsibility detracts from the aim of making money, which is the most important endeavour for banks, and leads to a decrease in revenue and profit.

Strong Argument
Weak Argument

Q17

Argument Four: No, over-regulation in the financial sector leads to decreased opportunities and therefore lower profits.

Strong Argument
Weak Argument

Statement Six:

Should all members of the European Union join the Eurozone and adopt the euro?

Q18

Argument One: No, countries may find it difficult to adapt to a new currency.

Strong Argument

Weak Argument

Q19

Argument Two: Yes, the function of the European Union is to form a single currency union.

Strong Argument

Weak Argument

Q20

Argument Three: Yes, greater economic unity between countries improves foreign relations between those member countries, which in turn make each country stronger.

Strong Argument

Weak Argument

Q21

Argument Four: No, instability of one Eurozone country could cause the whole Eurozone to become unstable, disrupting the economies of all countries that use the euro.

Strong Argument

Weak Argument

Statement Seven:

Should governments be engaging in space exploration research?

Q22

Argument One: No, the money spend on these programs could be used to increase funding for education and healthcare, which would lead to increasing the quality of life for a country's people.

Strong Argument
Weak Argument

Q23

Argument Two: No, countries have collectively spent trillions of dollars on space exploration research already.

Strong Argument
Weak Argument

Q24

Argument Three: Yes, space exploration has led to numerous discoveries and ushered in the space age.

Strong Argument
Weak Argument

Q25

Argument Four: Yes, the findings of these space exploration research and development programmes have been successfully applied to industry, boosting the economies of the host country.

Strong Argument
Weak Argument

-- END OF CRITICAL THINKING TEST --