

Free Critical Thinking Test

Assumptions

Solutions Booklet

Instructions

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

You should attempt the questions **before** reading this solutions document.

You may use this document to check your answers and to read the reasoning behind each question. It is up to you how you practice most effectively, but we suggest you work through the critical thinking test in its entirety before looking at these solutions.

If you believe there are any mistakes in these solutions we would love to be notified so that we can correct them. Please let us know at info@assessmentday.co.uk

Section 2: Assumptions

Instructions:

An assumption is something which is presumed or taken for granted. When a person says, “I will see you tomorrow”, it is taken for granted that they will be around tomorrow, and that they will not have last-minute plans which prevent them from seeing you tomorrow.

In this section, you will be provided with a number of statements. Each statement will be followed by a series of proposed assumptions. You must decide which assumptions are logically justified based on the evidence in the statement. If you think that the assumption is taken for granted in the statement, and is therefore logically justified, select **Assumption made**. If you think that the assumption is not taken for granted in the statement, and is not therefore logically justified, select **Assumption not made**. Remember to judge each question individually and base your responses on the statements provided.

See the example questions below with the correct answers given.

Statement One:

Monarchic nations, i.e. those with royal families, differ from republic nations in several ways. An example of this difference is that citizens of monarchic nations pay more tax than citizens of republican nations.

Q1

Assumption 1: The government of monarchic nations are responsible for setting tax rates on their citizens

Assumption Made
Assumption Not Made

Correct answer: Assumption Not Made

Explanation: The statement does not rely on the fact (or assumption) that governments set tax rates for their citizens. The statement doesn't attempt to explain what causes the difference in tax payments, merely that there is a difference.

Q2

Assumption 2: Republican nations do not have a royal family.

Assumption Made
Assumption Not Made

Correct answer: Assumption Made

Explanation: The statement says that monarchic nations are those with a royal family. The statement is assuming that this is one aspect which differentiates monarchic nations from republican nations.

Q3

Assumption 3: The only types of nation are monarchic and republican.

Assumption Made
Assumption Not Made

Correct answer: Assumption Not Made

Explanation: The statement is just talking about the differences between two types of nation; it does not imply that these are the only two nor does the statement rely on there being just two types.

Q4

Assumption 4: A monarchic nation cannot be a republican nation.

Assumption Made
Assumption Not Made

Correct answer: Assumption Made

Explanation: The statement relies on the two types of nation being different in order to describe their differences. The statement also talks about the tax rate paid by citizens of a monarchic nation with the implication that citizens of republican nations pay different tax.

Statement Two:

In 2008, the President of the USA promised to prevent the country entering economic depression, but he failed because at the beginning of 2012, over 12 million USA citizens were unemployed.

Q5

Assumption 1: Unemployment is an indicator of economic depression.

Assumption Made
Assumption Not Made

Correct answer: Assumption Made

Explanation: The statement says that the promise of not entering economic depression was not met due to unemployment figures. So, the statement has made an assumption that unemployment is indicative of economic depression.

Q6

Assumption 2: The number of USA citizens out of work ought to be less than 12 million.

Assumption Made
Assumption Not Made

Correct answer: Assumption Made

Explanation: The statement uses the level of unemployment as a justification for declaring that the promise of avoiding economic depression had not been met. Regardless of whether unemployment is or isn't a fair measure of economic depression, the statement is assuming that this level of unemployment is worse than what would be considered acceptable.

Q7

Assumption 3: Presidents should stick to their promises.

Assumption Made
Assumption Not Made

Correct answer: Assumption Not Made

Explanation: The statement does not assume that the President of the USA should or should not stick to his promises; it merely claims that the promise was not met on this occasion. The statement doesn't imply that breaking of promises is right or wrong, and so does not make the assumption that presidents should stick to their promises.

Statement Three:

Chilean students were right in 2012 to stage protests demanding that university education in Chile should be made free.

Q8

Assumption 1: Some Universities outside of Chile are free.

Assumption Made
Assumption Not Made

Correct answer: Assumption Not Made

Explanation: The statement does not make reference to what universities in other countries are charging, or that Chile should adopt practices of other countries. The assumption that there are free universities in other countries is not a prerequisite for this statement to be made.

Q9

Assumption 2: Staging protests will influence the costs of Chilean university education.

Assumption Made
Assumption Not Made

Correct answer: Assumption Not Made

Explanation: This is a subtle one. The statement says that students were right to stage protests, but it does not assume that the outcome will be influenced by the protests. The statement might be supporting protests despite the possible effect it will have, for example the statement could simply be sympathetic towards the protests and be saying that it is understandable the students staged protests.

Q10

Assumption 3: Chilean students cannot afford to pay fees for university education.

Assumption Made
Assumption Not Made

Correct answer: Assumption Not Made

Explanation: The statement makes no reference to what the students can or cannot afford. The statement is not using the affordability of university education as the justification for protests.

Q11

Assumption 4: Chilean students want to attend university.

Assumption Made
Assumption Not Made

Correct answer: Assumption Not Made

Explanation: The passage does not suggest that the students protested because they want to attend university and their actions of protest might help this outcome. The statement is simply that students were right to protest. In supporting the students' protests the statement is not assuming the students want to attend university.

Statement Four:

Charities don't have to charge VAT to customers, which means charity bookshops can charge lower prices than those charged by second-hand bookshops which are not registered as a charity.

Q12

Assumption 1: Charities pay less tax than non-charities

Assumption Made
Assumption Not Made

Correct answer: Assumption Not Made

Explanation: The statement claims that non-charities have to pay VAT, whereas charities do not. This is one type of tax, but the statement is not saying that charities enjoy an overall more favourable tax regime; it refers to just VAT. The statement is not coming from the angle that overall the level of tax paid by charities is less than that paid by non-charities; it has not made this assumption.

Q13

Assumption 2: Customers prefer to pay lower prices.

Assumption Made
Assumption Not Made

Correct answer: Assumption Not Made

Explanation: The passage says that charities can charge lower prices, but it does not talk about customers preferring one or the other. The statement has not assumed that customers prefer to pay lower prices.

Q14

Assumption 3: VAT increases the price customers pay for things.

Assumption Made
Assumption Not Made

Correct answer: Assumption Made

Explanation: The statement says that because VAT has to be charged by non-charities, the prices they charge customers have to be higher. The statement assumes that the charging of VAT increases the cost to customers.

-- END OF CRITICAL THINKING TEST --