
Statement and Argument

Directions (1-17): In making decisions about important questions, it is desirable to be able to distinguish between 'strong' arguments and 'weak' arguments. 'Strong' arguments are those which are both important and directly related to the question. 'Weak' arguments are those which are of minor importance and also may not be directly related to the question or may be related to a trivial aspect of the question.

Each question below is followed by two arguments numbered I and II. You have to decide which of the arguments is a 'strong' argument and which is a 'weak' argument

Give Answer a: if only argument I is strong

Give Answer b: if only argument II is strong

Give Answer c: if either argument I or II is strong

Give Answer d: if neither argument I nor II is strong

Give Answer e: if both arguments I and II are strong.

1. **Statement:** Should slum-dwellers be provided free houses in big cities and metropolises?

Arguments:

I. No, most of the slum dwellers are poor and illiterate.

II. Yes, providing food and shelter to every citizen is the responsibility of any welfare state.

2. **Statement:** Should polythene bags be banned in India?

Arguments:

I. No, the polythene bags are very cheap and are very convenient.

II. Yes, that is what many countries are doing.

3. **Statement:** Should military service for short duration be made compulsory to all eligible youth in India?

Arguments:

I. Yes, Indian defence forces are badly in need of jawans and officers.

II. Yes, it will inculcate discipline and national pride in youth.

4. **Statement:** Should military training of 3 years be made compulsory to all able-bodied youths in India?

Arguments:

I. Yes, similar practice is being followed in some developed countries.

II. No, compulsion spoils the best in everything.

5. **Statement:** Should Government standardize rent for rented houses in big cities in India?

Arguments:

I. No, it is an interference in the relationship between landlord and tenant.

II. Yes, Government can do it, provided it has political will to do it.

6. Should the use of nuclear energy to generate electricity be completely banned in India?

Arguments:

I. Yes, India does not have enough resources to generate adequate level of electricity using nuclear energy and should concentrate on harvesting its natural resources.

II. No, conventional energy sources are depleting rapidly in India and hence it should use nuclear energy to generate electricity.

7. Should all the senior members of the Indian cricket team be replaced by energetic young players?

Arguments:

I. No, the experience of the senior players will be essential to excel in the forthcoming cricket World Cup.

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- II. Yes, the young players should be brought in now to groom them to take on the other teams in the forthcoming cricket World Cup.
8. Should the right of employees to strike work be banned and the violators be severely punished?
Arguments:
I. Yes, this is the only way to ensure smooth functioning of the organisations and prohibit the employees from taking the organizations for granted.
II. No, this will lead to autocratic organizational administration and the organisation may grossly violate the basic rights of the employees.
9. Should all the level crossings on the railway lines in India be closed down and flyovers or subways be built?
Arguments:
I. Yes, this will substantially minimize the number of accidents resulting into death of large number of people.
II. No, the government does not have sufficient fund to construct so many flyovers/subways.
10. Should all the students up to standard five be exempted from taking final examination every year?
Arguments:
I. Yes, this will considerably reduce the burden on the parents
II. Yes, the teachers should evaluate such students on continuous basis throughout the year.
11. **Statement:** Should 'computer knowledge' be made a compulsory subject for all students at secondary school certificate (S.S.C.) examination in India?
Arguments:
I. No, our need is 'bread' for everyone, we cannot follow western models.
II. Yes, we cannot enter the year 2000 without equipping our children with computers.
12. **Statement:** Should 'literacy' be the minimum criterion for becoming a voter in India?
Arguments:
I. No, mere literacy is no guarantee of political maturity of an individual.
II. Yes, illiterate people are less likely to make politically wiser decision of voting for a right candidate or party.
13. **Statement:** Should schemes of voluntary retirement be introduced in all sick public sector units in India?
Arguments:
I. Yes, excess and inefficient staff is one of the reasons of sickness of public sector organisations.
II. Yes, this is what private and multinational companies do in developed countries.
14. **Statement:** Should postal services be privatised in India?
Arguments:
I. Yes, it will make life easy for the citizens of India.
II. No, privatisation is not a panacea for all the problems, even private service can be equally bad.
15. **Statement:** Should system of offering jobs only to wards of government employees be introduced in all governments offices in India?
Arguments:
I. No, it denies opportunity to many deserving individuals and government may stand to loose

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- in the long run.
- II. No, it is against the principle of equality and does government not owe responsibility to all its citizens?
16. **Statement:** Should the existing labour laws be changed in the favour of owners?
Arguments:
- I. Yes, the existing labour laws give much more protection to employees than required and thus production is reduced.
- II. No, because owners would exploit employees as before when there were no labour laws.
17. **Statement:** Should India acquire/manufacture the latest nuclear weapons?
Arguments:
- I. Yes, enemies of India are improving their weapons continuously.
- II. No, it will be against our policy of maintaining world peace.
18. The ministry of sports has been advised by a committee to take the highest award in the field of sports back from two players who were allegedly-involved in match fixing. Which of the following statements would **weaken** the argument put forward by the committee to the sports ministry?
- a. A good conduct in the past and a lack of evidence against the players make the case against them very weak.
- b. The ministry of sports has never declined the recommendations made by the committee earlier.
- c. Taking the award back from the players would set a good example to other players for avoiding such actions in the future.
- d. There have been past cases where the award had to be taken back from the players owing to some misconduct later on.
- e. The committee is constituted of some of the most respected and esteemed members from the fields of sports and politics.
19. Many organisation have been resorting to recruitment based upon performance at graduate/post-graduate level exams rather than conducting exams for the same purpose. Which of the following statements would **strengthen** the arguments given in the above statement?
- a. A recent study shows no link of past performance with the performance in recruitment exams.
- b. The graduate/post-graduate exams are considered to be severely deficient in training in job related environment.
- c. Organisation which had undertaken recruitment on the basis of graduate/post graduate exams report a significant drop in the quality of the recruited employees.
- d. Such policies would add to unemployment among students having below average performance in graduation or post-graduation
- e. Such policies could save time, money and resources of the organisation which are wasted in the conduct of recruitment examinations.
20. According to a recent government directive, all bank branches in rural areas should be computerized. Which of the following statements would **weaken** the government's argument?
1. Computerization of bank branches in urban areas has helped in making their performance more efficient and fast.
2. Lack of skilled and qualified manpower has been suitably substituted by computers in banks.

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3. Non-computerized bank branches in the rural areas have been proved to be as efficient as their computerized counterparts.
 4. The government has introduced a special test for computer knowledge in all recruitment exams for banks
 5. Unemployment in the rural areas could be controlled by training more and more professional in computers.
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ANSWER TEST 1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
D	D	B	D	D	B	D	D	A	B	A	D	D	A	D	D	E	A	E	C



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