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SAMPLE QUESTIONS OF GMAT TEST

(Sample questions are taken from *GMAT, Graduate Management Admission Test*, Graduate Management Admission Council, 2003)

A. ANALYTICAL WRITING

A.1. SAMPLE ANALYSIS OF AN ISSUE QUESTION

Directions

In this section, you will need to analyze the issue presented and explain your views on it. There is no "correct" answer. Instead, you should consider various perspectives as you develop your own position on the issue.

Question

People often complain that products are not made to last. They feel that making products that wear out fairly quickly both natural and human resources. What they fail to see, however, is that such manufacturing practices keep costs down for the consumer and stimulate demand.

Which do you find more compelling, the complaint about products that do not last or the response to it? Explain your position, using relevant reasons and/or examples from your own experience, observations, or reading.

A.2. SAMPLE ANALYSIS OF AN ARGUMENT QUESTION

Directions

In this section you will be asked to write a critique of the argument presented. You are not being asked to present your own views on the subject.

Question

The following appeared in the editorial section of a monthly business news magazine:

Most companies would agree that as the risk of physical injury occurring on the job increases, the wages paid to employees should also increase. Hence it makes financial sense for employers to make the workplace safer: they could thus reduce their payroll expenses and save money.

Discuss how well reasoned you find this argument. In your discussion be sure to analyze the line of reasoning and the use of evidence in the argument. For example, you may need to consider what questionable assumptions underlie the thinking and what alternative explanations or counterexamples might weaken the conclusion. You can also discuss what sort of evidence would strengthen or refute the argument, what changes in the argument would make it more logically sound, and what, if anything, would help you better evaluate its conclusion.

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B. VERBAL

B.1. SAMPLE READING COMPREHENSION QUESTION

Directions

The questions in this group are based on the content of a passage. After reading the passage, choose the best answer to each question. Answer all questions following the passage on the basis of what is stated or implied in the passage.

Question

Schools expect textbooks to be a valuable source of information for students. My research suggests, however, that textbooks that address the place of Native Americans within the history of the United States distort history to suit a particular cultural value system. In some textbooks, for example, settlers are pictured as more humane, complex, skillful, and wise than Native Americans. In essence, textbooks stereotype and depreciate the numerous Native American cultures while reinforcing the attitude that the European conquest of the New World denotes the architecture, political systems, and homemaking, I contend that they do it from an ethnocentric, European perspective without recognizing that other perspectives are possible.

One argument against my contention asserts that, by nature, textbooks are culturally biased and that I am simply underestimating children's ability to see through these biases. Some researchers even claim that by the time students are in high school, they know they cannot take textbooks literally. Yet substantial evidence exists in the contrary. Two researchers, for example, have conducted studies that suggest that children's attitudes about particular cultures are strongly influenced by the textbooks used in schools. Given this, an ongoing, careful review of how school textbooks depict Native Americans is certainly warranted.

Which of the following would most logically be the topic of the paragraph immediately following the passage?

- A) Specific ways to evaluate the biases of United States history textbooks
- B) The centrality of the teacher's role in United States history courses
- C) Nontraditional methods of teaching United States history
- D) The contributions of European immigrants to the development of the United States
- E) Ways in which parents influence children's political attitudes

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B.2. SAMPLE CRITICAL REASONING QUESTION

Directions

For the question, select the best of the answer choices given.

Question

The cost of producing radios in Country Q is ten percent less than the cost of producing radios in Country Y. Even after transportation fees and tariff charges are added, it is still cheaper for a company to import radios from Country Q to Country Y than to produce radios in Country Y.

The statements above, if true, best support which of the following assertions?

- A) Labor costs in Country Q are ten percent below those in Country Y.
- B) Importing radios from Country Q to Country Y will eliminate ten percent of the manufacturing jobs in Country Y.
- C) The tariff on a radio imported from Country Q to Country Y is less than ten percent of the cost manufacturing the radio in Country Y.
- D) The fee for transporting a radio from Country Q to Country Y is more than ten percent of the costs of manufacturing the radio in Country Q.
- E) It takes ten percent less time to manufacture a radio in Country Q than it does in Country Y.

B.3. SAMPLE SENTENCE CORRECTION QUESTION

Directions

This question presents a sentence, part of which or all of which is underlined. Beneath the sentence you will find five ways of phrasing the underlined part. The first of these repeats the original; the other four are different. If you think the original is best, choose the first answer; otherwise choose one of the others.

This question tests correctness and effectiveness of expression. In choosing your answer, follow the requirements of standard written English; that is, pay attention to grammar, choice of words, and sentence construction. Choose the answer that produces the most effective sentence; this answer should be clear and exact, without awkwardness, ambiguity, redundancy, or grammatical error.

Question

Carbon-14 dating reveals that megalithic monuments in Brittany are nearly 2,000 years as old as any of their supposed Mediterranean predecessors.

- A) as old as any of their supposed
- B) older than any of their supposed
- C) as old as their supposed
- D) older than any of their supposedly
- E) as old as their supposedly

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C. QUANTITATIVE

C.1. SAMPLE PROBLEM SOLVING QUESTION

Directions

Solve the problem and indicate the best of the answer choices given.

Question

If $u > t$, $r > q$, $s > t$, and $t > r$, which of the following must be true?

- I. $u > s$
- II. $s > q$
- III. $u > r$
- A) I only
- B) II only
- C) III only
- D) I and II
- E) II and III

C.2. SAMPLE DATA SUFFICIENCY QUESTION

Directions

This data sufficiency problem consists of a question and two statements, labeled (1) and (2), in which certain data are given. You have to decide whether the data given in the statements are sufficient for answering the question. Using the data given in the statements, plus your knowledge of mathematics and everyday facts (such as the number of days in July or the meaning of the word *counterclockwise*), you must indicate whether....

- Statement (1) ALONE is sufficient, but statement (2) alone is not sufficient to answer the question asked.
- Statement (2) ALONE is sufficient, but statement (1) alone is not sufficient to answer the question asked.
- BOTH statements (1) and (2) TOGETHER are sufficient to answer the question asked, but NEITHER statement ALONE is sufficient to answer the question asked.
- EACH statement ALONE is sufficient to answer the question asked.
- Statement (1) and (2) TOGETHER are NOT sufficient to answer the question asked, and additional data specific to the problem are needed.

Question

If a real estate agent received a commission of 6 percent of the selling price of a certain house, what was the selling price of the house?

- 1) The selling price minus the real estate agent's commission was \$84,600.
- 2) The selling price was 250 percent of the original purchase price of \$36,000.
- A. Statement (1) ALONE is sufficient, but statement (2) alone is not sufficient.
- B. Statement (2) ALONE is sufficient, but statement (2) alone is not sufficient.
- C. BOTH statements TOGETHER are sufficient, but NEITHER statement ALONE is sufficient.
- D. EACH statement ALONE is sufficient.
- E. Statements (1) and (2) TOGETHER are NOT sufficient.

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