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CHAPTER

Statement & Arguments

DIRECTIONS (Qs. 1-5) : 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.

(SBI PO 2010)

Each question below is followed by three arguments numbered (A), (B) and (C). You have to decide which of the arguments is a 'strong' argument and which is a 'weak' argument.

- Statement :** Should there be a cap on drawing groundwater for irrigation purposes in India ?
Arguments :
(A) No, irrigation is of prime importance for food production in India and it is heavily dependent on groundwater in many parts of the country.
(B) Yes, water tables have gone down to alarmingly low levels in some parts of the country where irrigation is primarily dependent on groundwater, which may lead to serious environmental consequences.
(C) Yes, India just cannot afford to draw groundwater any further as the international agencies have cautioned India against it.
(a) Only (A) and (B) are strong
(b) Only (B) and (C) are strong
(c) Only (A) and (C) are strong
(d) All (A), (B) and (C) are strong
(e) None of these
- Statement :** Should there be complete ban on setting up of thermal power plants in India ?
Arguments :
(A) Yes, this is the only way to arrest further addition to environmental pollution.
(B) No, there is a huge shortage of electricity in most parts of the country and hence generation of electricity needs to be augmented.
(C) No, many developed countries continue to set up thermal power plants in their countries.
(a) None is strong
(b) Only (A) is strong
(c) Only (B) is strong
(d) Only (C) is strong
(e) Only either (A) or (B) is strong
- Statement:** Should there be a restriction on the construction of high rise buildings in big cities in India.
Arguments :
(A) No, big cities in India do not have adequate open land plots to accommodate the growing population.
(B) Yes, only the builders and developers benefit from the construction of high rise buildings.

- (C) Yes, the Government should first provide adequate infrastructure facilities to existing buildings before allowing the construction of new high rise buildings.
(a) Only (B) is strong
(b) Only (C) is strong
(c) Only (A) and (C) are strong
(d) Only (A) is strong
(e) None of these
- Statement :** Should road repair work in big cities be carried out only late at night ?
Arguments :
(A) No, this way the work will never get completed.
(B) No, there will be unnecessary use of electricity.
(C) Yes, the commuters will face lot of problems due to repair work during the day.
(a) None is strong
(b) Only (A) is strong
(c) Only (C) is strong
(d) Only (B) and (C) are strong
(e) Only (A) and (B) are strong
- Statement :** Should all the deemed universities be derecognised and attached to any of the central of state universities in India ?
Arguments :
(A) Yes, many of these deemed universities do not conform to the required standards of a full – fledged university and hence the level of education is compromised.
(B) No, these deemed universities have been able to introduce innovative courses suitable to the requirement of various industries as they are free from strict Government controls.
(C) Yes, many such universities are basically money spinning activities and education takes a backseat in these institutions
(a) Only (A) and (B) are strong
(b) Only (B) and (C) are strong
(c) Only (A) and (C) are strong
(d) All (A), (B) and (C) are strong
(e) None of these

DIRECTIONS (Qs. 6-10) : Read the following statements carefully and answer the questions which follow.

(IBPS PO 2013)

- 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 from the fields of sports and politics.
7. Many organizations 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 argument 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) Organisations 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 amongst 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.
8. 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?
- (a) Computerisation of bank branches in urban areas has helped in making their performance more efficient and fast.
- (b) Lack of skilled and qualified manpower has been suitably substituted by computers in banks.
- (c) Non-computerised bank branches in the rural areas have been proved to be as efficient as their computerized counterparts.
- (d) The government has introduced a special test for computer knowledge in all recruitment exams for banks.
- (e) Unemployment in the rural areas could be controlled by training more and more professionals in computers.
9. Nations do not complete with each other in the way corporations do. Which of the following most favours the weakness of the argument?
- (a) Trade deficit is a sign of national strength, profits are a sign of corporate strength.
- (b) Increase in human development index improves national standing, increase in market share improves corporate standing.
- (c) Climate change negotiations lead to global improvement; CSR initiatives lead to image improvement.
- (d) Nations go to war to capture territory, corporates contend against each other to capture market share.
- (e) None of the above.
10. Civilization has taught us to be friendlier towards one another **(IBPS Bank PO 2013)**
Which of the following most favours the strengthens of the argument?
- (a) Cats are loyal to their children, whereas men are loyal to their communities
- (b) Elephants move in a herd, whereas men live in nuclear families
- (c) Lions protect their own territories, whereas men capture other men's territories
- (d) Nilgai and Cheetal stay together, whereas men of one race dominate another
- (e) None of the above
11. The mushrooming of business schools in the country is a cause for shortage of faculty with Ph.D qualification. In addition, the higher pay and generous fringe benefits given by industry has encouraged qualified people to not seek academic positions. Which of the following statements, if true, would tend to **STRENGTHEN** the argument? **(IBPS Bank PO 2013)**
- (a) The average salary for industry positions in Gujarat is more than the average salary for faculty positions in some business schools in Ahmedabad by around 30%
- (b) The average salary for industry positions in Gujarat is less than the average salary for faculty positions in a top business school in Ahmedabad by around 30%
- (c) The average salary for recent Ph. D graduates in the industry is 20% higher than that in academics
- (d) The rate of growth of salaries for the industry positions has been higher than the rate of growth of salaries for academic positions for the past three years
- (e) None of the above
12. The rate of violent crime in this state is upto 30% from last year. The fault lies entirely in our system of justice. Recently our judges' sentences have been so lenient that criminals can now do almost anything without fear of a long prison term. The argument above would be weakened if it were true that **(IBPS Bank PO 2013)**
- (a) 85% of the other States in the nation have lower crime rates than does this state
- (b) white-collar crime in this state has also increased by over 25% in the last year
- (c) 35% of the police in this state have been laid off in the last year due to budget cuts
- (d) polls show that 65% of the population in this state opposes capital punishment
- (e) None of the above

13. **Statement:** Many major auto makers will increase the prices of their vehicles by 7 percent from next month, mainly to offset higher input and operational costs.

Which of the following arguments would weaken the facts given in the statement ? (SBI Specialist Off. 2014)

- (a) The largest auto maker in the country, Verontee had failed to make any profit when prices for its vehicles were increased by almost 4 per cent
- (b) Operational and input costs continue to be 85 per cent of the total costs of the vehicles
- (c) Both input and operational costs were gradually increased by the government to avoid sudden transit losses to the companies
- (d) At any given time, a price rise of more than 5 per cent definitely leads to substantial decrease in sales of the vehicles
- (e) Rather than increasing profit, 7 per cent price rise would bring it at the same level which existed before the rise in input/operational costs.

14. The local board of education found that, because the current physics curriculum has little direct relevance to today's world, physics classes attracted few high school students. So to attract students to physics classes, the board proposed a curriculum that emphasizes principles of physics involved in producing and analyzing visual images.

Which of the following, if true, provides the strongest reason to expect that the proposed curriculum will be successful in attracting students? (IBPS SO 2014)

- (a) Several of the fundamental principles of physics are involved in producing and analyzing visual images.
- (b) Knowledge of physics is becoming increasingly important in understanding the technology used in today's world.
- (c) Evidence that a large producer of photographic equipment has donated to the high school could be used in the proposed curriculum.
- (d) In today's world the production and analysis of visual images is of major importance in communications, business, and recreation.
- (e) None of these

DIRECTION (Q. 15): Read the following statements carefully and answer the questions which follow.

(Corporation Bank Specialist (IT) Officer 2015)

15. 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 ?

- (a) Computerisation of bank branches in urban areas has helped in making their performance more efficient and fast.
- (b) Lack of skilled and qualified manpower has been suitably substituted by computers in banks.
- (c) Non-computerised bank branches in the rural areas have been proved to be as efficient as their computerized counterparts.

- (d) The government has introduced a special test for computer knowledge in all recruitment exams for banks.
- (e) Unemployment in the rural areas could be controlled by training more and more professionals in computers.

DIRECTIONS (Qs. 16-18): In making decisions about important questions, it is desirable to distinguish between 'strong' argument and 'weak' argument. A 'strong' argument must be both important and directly related to the question. A 'weak' argument may not be directly related to the question and may be of minor importance or may be related to the 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 'strong' and which is 'weak'

(IBPS SO 2015)

Give answer

- (a) if only argument I is strong
- (b) if only argument II is strong
- (c) if either I or II strong
- (d) if neither I nor II is strong and
- (e) if both I and II are strong.

16. **Statement** Keeping in consideration the longevity of life in India, should the age limit for retirement in government jobs be increased?

Argument

- I. Yes, other countries have decided so long before.
- II. Yes, it is the actual demand of lakhs of employees.

17. **Statement** Should the admission to professional courses in India be given only on merit without any concession to any particular group of students?

Argument

- I. Yes, this will improve the quality of the professionals as they will be able to complete the courses successfully.
- II. No, this will keep large number of socially and economically backward students out of the reach of the professional courses.

18. **Statement** Should private companies be allowed to operate air services in India?

Argument

- I. Yes, Indian Private Managements usually give better services.
- II. No, we should not ape the western countries.

DIRECTION (Q. 19): Question below is followed by three arguments numbered I, II and III. You have to decide which of the argument(s) is/are "strong" and indicate your answer accordingly.

(IBPS PO Main 2015)

19. Should the Government restrict use of electricity for each household depending upon the requirement?

Arguments :

- I. Yes, this will help government tide over the problem of inadequate generation of electricity.
- II. No, every citizen has right to consume electricity as per their requirement as they pay for using electricity.
- III. No, the Government does not have the machinery to put such a restriction on use of electricity.

- (a) Only I is strong
 (b) Only II is strong
 (c) Only I and II are strong
 (d) Only II and III are strong
 (e) All I, II and III are strong
20. **Statement** : Many patients suffering from malaria were administered anti-malarial drug for a week. Some of them did not respond to the traditional drug and their condition deteriorated after four days. **(IBPS PO Main 2015)**
 Which of the following would **weaken** the findings mentioned in the above statement?
 (a) Those patients who responded to the traditional drugs and recovered were needed to be given additional doses as they reported relapse of symptoms.
 (b) The mosquitoes carrying malaria are found to be resistant to traditional malarial drugs.
 (c) Majority of the patients suffering from malaria responded well to the traditional malarial drugs and recovered from the illness.
 (d) Many drug companies have stopped manufacturing traditional malarial drugs.
 (e) None of these
21. **Statement** : The cost of manufacturing cars in state A is thirty per cent less than the cost of manufacturing cars in state B. Even after transportation fee for the differential distances of states A and B and the interstate taxes, it is cheaper to manufacture cars in state B than state A for selling these cars in State C.
 Which of the following **supports** the conclusion drawn in the above statement? **(IBPS PO Main 2015)**
 (a) The cost of transportation from state A to state C is more than thirty per cent of the production cost.
 (b) The production costs of cars in state B are lower in comparison to state A.
 (c) Only Entry tax at state C is more for the products originated in state A
 (d) Entry tax at state C is more for the products originated in state B
 (e) The total of transportation cost of cars from state B to state C and entry tax of cars at state C is less than thirty per cent of the production cost of cars in state B.
22. **Statement** : Many people are of the opinion that use of cell phones in offices for personal use should totally be banned. It has been found in a research study that there was significant drop in output of employees in the organisation where use of cell phones was liberally allowed vis-a-vis those organizations where use of cell phones are banned for making personal calls.
 Which of the following **contradicts** the findings in the above statement? **(IBPS PO Main 2015)**
 (a) People spend more time on talking while using cell phone for personal calls.
 (b) Use of cell phones has become common in all the organizations.
 (c) In the organization where employees were allowed to use cell phones for making personal calls the employees are found to be more motivated to carry out their duties than those working in other organizations.
 (d) Many organizations who provide cell phones to their employees for making official calls advise them to refrain from making personal calls during office hours
 (e) None of these
23. **Statement** : Some of the country's largest food beverage and pharma companies may be forced to import sugar directly as the government plans to improve stock limits on industrial consumers to ease the shortage in grocery shops and cool down prices that are at a 28 month high.
 Which of the following **substantiates** the views expressed in the above statement? **(IBPS PO Main 2015)**
 (a) Food, beverage and pharma companies were not allowed in the past to import sugar.
 (b) Sugar prices have been fluctuating for the past seven months.
 (c) Government does not have authority to restrict purchase of sugar from the open market.
 (d) Import of sugar for commercial use will help lowering down the sugar price in the retail market.
 (e) None of these
24. Consider the following sentences :
 "Now-a-days the FMCG companies woo their customers or buyers by selling their goods or products in small sachets. This has increased the sale of the product".
 Which of the following may be the appropriate reason for the given facts ? **(IBPS PO Main 2015)**
 (a) People generally want to buy any products in small quantity
 (b) FMCG companies save cost of packaging and so their profit is maximised
 (c) It is easy to store any products in sachets so buyer prefer them
 (d) It is possible to assess the quality of products without wasting much money when a sachets is bought
 (e) Generally people consume the whole quality of product contained in the sachets at once and so people buy a large number of sachets at one time.
25. In Swartkans territory, archaeologists discovered charred bone fragments dating back one million years. Analysis of the fragments, which came from a variety of animals, showed that they had been heated to temperatures no higher than those produced in experimental campfires made from branches of white, stinkwood, the most common tree around Swartkans.
 Which of the following, if true, would, together with the information above, provide the best basis for the claim that the charred bone fragments are evidence of the use of fire by early hominids? **(SBI PO 2015)**
 (a) The white stinkwood tree is used for building material by the present day inhabitants of Swartkans
 (b) Forest fires can heat wood to a range of temperatures that occur in campfires

32. **Statement:** Should the private companies be allowed to operate passenger train services in India?

Arguments

- I. Yes, this will improve the quality of service in Indian Railways as it will have to face severe competition.
- II. No, the private companies may not agree to operate in the non-profitable sectors.

33. **Statement-** The Captain Amarinder Singh-led government in Punjab has announced free education for girls in government schools and colleges from Nursery to PhD.

(IBPS Clerk Main 2019)

- (I) Good social welfare law. It is initially for girls as they are comparatively disadvantaged. Hopefully it will soon be followed by free education for everyone.
- (II) It is gender biased as if a poor or average person wants to educate his son for higher education he has to pay higher bills. If you are introducing a law / scheme / bills under no circumstance it should not favour any particular gender, if they are really concerned about education.
- (III) Do not differentiate a poor or average person on gender. A poor boy or man should also get free education as well.

Which of the following argument holds strong for the given statement?

- (a) Only II
- (b) Only III
- (c) Only II and III
- (d) Only I and II
- (e) All of the above

34. 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 questions. '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.

The question below is followed by three arguments numbered I, II and III. You have to decide which of the arguments is a 'strong' argument and which is a 'weak' argument is.

Statement: Should all the deemed universities be derecognized and attached to any of the central or state universities of India? **[SBI PO Main-2019]**

Arguments:

- I. Yes, many of these deemed universities do not conform to the required standards of a full-fledged university and hence the level of education is compromised.
 - II. No, these deemed universities have been able to introduce innovative courses suitable to the requirement of various industries as they are free from strict government controls
 - III. Yes, many such universities are basically money spinning activities and education takes a backseat in these institutions
- (a) Only I and II are strong
 - (b) Only II and III are strong
 - (c) Only I and III are strong
 - (d) All I, II and III are strong
 - (e) None of the above

Answers & Explanations

1. (a) Both argument (A) and (B) are strong. Which clearly show the importance of irrigation and environmental consequences of reducing groundwater level. Argument (c) is not strong.
2. (c) Only Argument (B) is strong because thermal power plants in India are one way to increase environmental pollution so cannot be completely banned. Argument (C) is based on example which is a bad argument.
3. (d) Argument (A) is strong because due to shortage of space in big cities in India high rise building should be encouraged.
4. (c) Only Argument (C) is strong because to avoid the inconvenience of commuters, repair work is advisable in night only.
5. (c) Only Argument (A) and (C) are strong because compromise with level of education cannot be done.
6. (a) Option (a) would weaken the argument put forward by the committee to the sports ministry.
7. (e) Option (e) would strengthen the argument.
8. (c) Option (c) would strengthen the argument of government.
9. (d) This option says that aggressiveness is a common way for both.
10. (a) Cultivation taught us the moral duties regarding the children and relatives.
11. (c) In the question, the argument gives information about the country but the statements (a) and (b) are about the state Gujarat only which is irrelevant. In statement (d) the information about rate of growth of salaries is given. Only statement (c) implies about the average salary of Ph.D graduate. Hence the correct option is (c).
12. (c) Thus the increase in crime rate has been contributed by other factors, not leniency in the punishment.
13. (d) Clearly option (d) would contradict the facts given in statement because profits will reduce along with reduction in sales.
14. (d) In today's world the production and analysis of visual images is of major importance in communications, business and recreation.
15. (c) Statement (c) would weaken the government's argument because it negates the importance of computerisation of bank branches.
16. (d) Both the arguments are weak. Other countries have different conditions. And in India population of youth is increasing so, for the benefits of youth age limit for retirement should not be increased in government jobs.
17. (b) Our country seeks to support educationally and economically backward classes for their overall growth and development. Therefore, argument I is not strong, in Indian context.
18. (a) First argument is strong as it is based upon an established fact. Second is based upon example, hence it is a weak argument.
19. (c) Shortage of electricity can only be faced with saving in electricity. So argument I seems to be strong. Argument II is also strong because every citizen is paying every single unit of electricity so he/she has right to consume it. Argument III seems to be weak because government can easily manage restricted use of electricity.
20. (c) Statement (c) would weaken the findings that some of the patients did not respond to the traditional drug meant for malaria.
21. (e) Data given in conclusion (e) is in favour of findings given in the statement.
22. (c) Statement (c) is just opposite of findings given in statement because the organisations where employees are allowed to use cell phones their work-efficiency is reduced considerably.
23. (d) If sugar is not supplied to largest food beverage and pharma companies the stock of sugar will improve and prices will come down.
24. (e) Obviously, option (e) justifies the given fact. People generally prefer small quantity of product at a time so the product in form of sachet is more popular in consumers. Consumers think it is better to consume the ingredients at once. So sale of product also increases.
25. (d) The information that strengthens this argument will be about the subjects of the argument, not about tangential issues. In this case, the argument is about early hominids' use of fire. Any physical evidence, that links the early hominids to the charred bone fragments strengthens the argument. If these bone fragments were found in conjunction with some other evidence of the presence of early hominids, then the evidence from the Swartkans location could be used to support the claim that early hominids used fire. Hence, statement (d) properly identifies evidence that links early hominids to these bone fragments and so strengthens the argument.

26. (b) People having a comfortable lifestyle are found to be happier than leading strenuous lifestyle by their height on most contradicts the findings.
27. (c) Clearly, option (c) weaken the findings because suffering from malaria respond well to the traditional malaria drugs, while in statement not seems so.
28. (c) After a cautioned gap of one month people have started visiting crowded places most substantiates the facts.
29. (a) Educating the school going children on politics will definitely acquaint them with the intricacies and modalities of the same thus help them to make informed decision. Hence, argument I is strong.
30. (a) (i) most accurately defines term “implicit bias” as the word automatic was used which is similar to the term “unintentionally racist” used by researchers.
31. (b) Argument I is not strong because it does not tell that why the grievances of people will increase. Argument II is strong because it will reduce the power theft which has resulted in a huge amount of losses.
32. (a) Argument I is strong because competition increases the quality of service. From the Argument II it is not clear that railways is a non-profitable sector and private companies are also operating in non-profitable sectors. So, Argument II is not strong.
33. (c) For I- This argument does not holds strong because this initiative is for girls to get benefited initially but it is not like that education will be free for everyone.
For II- This argument also holds strong because a law/ scheme or bill should not be for any particular gender but it should be for the one who really need it.
For III- This is also strong because gender should not be the criterion for the free education. It is the poor who should get the benefits.
34. (c) Only I and III are strong
 Higher learning institutions like Universities should provide highest quality education. So, I and III are strong.