



CRITICAL REASONING · CONCEPT SERIES

The Anatomy of an Argument

CRITICAL REASONING

How an argument is built, and how to find the one sentence the other three are there to hold up. The volume every other book in this series stands on.

Concept · Worked Examples · 120 Questions

Contents

1 chapter, 5 concepts, 25 worked examples and 120 questions — then a back section you will use more than any single chapter. Everything below is on the page the dots point to.

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How this book works

Every idea in here opens with a question you have not been taught to answer. You will read it, you will pick an option, and there is a good chance you will pick the wrong one. That is the design. The explanation lands harder on a reader who has just been caught than on one who has been warned, and being caught here costs you nothing.

THE SUPPORT FADES. Under each concept the first walkthrough does all four steps out loud — names the task, prephrases an answer, puts every option on trial, then proves the survivor from a line in the passage. The second hands you the options to judge. The third hands you the prephrase as well. By the fifth you are running the whole method and I give you the answer and one line of proof, nothing more.

THREE LEVELS, MARKED HONESTLY. Every question carries L1, L2 or L3. L1 is a short stimulus with one clean trap. L2 is the length the paper actually sets. L3 is exam-hard — the conclusion is buried, two options survive the first pass, and one of them is wrong for a reason you have to go back to the passage to find. Nothing is mislabelled to flatter you.

THE TRAP. Each concept takes one wrong option and treats it seriously: why it attracts, which family of trap it belongs to, and the one line in the passage that kills it. Learn these. In this section the difference between a good score and a top one is almost entirely the ability to reject a tempting answer, and you cannot reject what you cannot name.

WHERE THE REASONING IS. The key at the back of this book gives you letters only. Everything else — why the answer is proved, and why each of the other three fails — is in the Solutions Companion. That is deliberate. In this subject the three wrong answers teach you more than the right one, and I did not want that material reduced to a letter in a grid.

WHERE THIS VOLUME SITS. This is the volume the rest of the series stands on. Everything else — the question types, the assumption family, weakening, flaws, parallels — assumes you can already find a conclusion in an unfamiliar passage and say what is holding it up. That skill is the whole of this book. If you can do it, the later volumes are technique. If you cannot, no technique will help you, because you will be applying it to the wrong sentence.

WHAT IT IS NOT. It is not a list of tricks for spotting answers without reading. Those exist, they work on easy questions, and they fail on exactly the questions that decide your rank. Every method here sends you back to the passage, because the passage is the only thing that can prove an answer.

ONE HONEST WARNING. This section is about a fifth of the paper — roughly double the weight of Quantitative — and it is the most learnable fifth, because it asks you to memorise nothing. What it asks instead is that you be willing to refuse an answer that is true. Every question in here prints three wrong options a careful reader can defend, and in this section marks go to those far more often than to a question that was genuinely hard. The clock does the rest. Accuracy and speed are the two things this book is for; there is no third.

CHAPTER 1

What an Argument Is, and How to Find Its Spine

Logical Reasoning carries something in the region of a fifth to a quarter of the marks in a CLAT paper, and every question in it sits under a passage. Almost none of those questions can be answered until you know which sentence the author is actually defending. Get the spine wrong and you will still eliminate options carefully, still read every word, and still lose the mark — because you were auditing the wrong claim. This chapter is the cheapest four marks in the section and the most commonly skipped.

BEFORE YOU READ ANYTHING ELSE — TRY THIS

You found a sentence that the passage clearly proves, and you stopped there. The pipeline has widened — the passage does establish that, and the paragraph is built to make it feel like the destination. It is not the destination. It is the last plank the author lays down before stepping onto the thing he actually wants: a spending decision. I have watched strong readers lose this mark for years, and never because they misread a word. They stopped one sentence early.

An argument is a claim plus the reasons offered for it. Every sentence in a stimulus is doing one of two jobs: it is the thing being sold, or it is part of the payment. The spine of the argument is the sentence that everything else is paying for, and nothing pays for it. Find that sentence first, before you look at a single option, and half of this section stops being hard.

THE WAY OUT, IN FOUR LINES

Name the task	Main conclusion — find the sentence nothing else pays for
Prephrase	Spend on the clinic posts, not on the wing
Eliminate	'The pipeline has widened' is proved, then spent on what follows
Prove it	'If we are going to spend...' — every other sentence pays for this one

The sentence you picked was proved by the passage. That is exactly what made it the wrong answer — something else was still resting on it.

1.1 Arguments and fact sets — the "so what?" test

Most of what you read in a day cannot be argued with. A price list. A lab report. A school notice. These are fact sets, and a fact set has no position: you cannot weaken it, you cannot strengthen it, and there is nothing in it to assume, because nothing in it is being held up by anything else.

An argument differs in exactly one respect. Somewhere inside it, a claim is leaning on other claims for support. The figure on this page sets out three ordinary facts about a city's buses twice over. The first time they sit in a list, inert. The second time two of them have been put to work underneath a conclusion, holding it up. Same three facts. Only the second version is an argument, and only the second version can be attacked.

So the first question I put to any stimulus is rude and short. So what? If the passage answers me — if some sentence is there because of the others — I am holding an argument. If it just stares back, I am holding a list, and half the options on the page are already dead.

A FACT SET

Fares rose in April.

Ridership fell in May.

Fuel costs were flat.

*Nothing points anywhere.**There is no claim to attack.***AN ARGUMENT**

Fares rose in April.

Ridership fell in May.

↓
so**The rise drove riders away.***THIS is the sentence a question
will ask you about.**Same three facts. The second set claims something with them – and only a claim can be weakened, strengthened or assumed.***THE METHOD****ASIDES & TRAPS**

Ask "so what?"	Read a sentence, then ask what it is there for. If another sentence answers, that answer is a conclusion.	
Find the load-bearer	Look for the one claim everything else is paying for and that pays for nothing itself.	
Try to break it	Say aloud what evidence would damage the passage. If nothing could, there is no claim to damage.	<i>A fact set is unweakenable, and that is the tell.</i>
Quarantine reported views	A view the passage attributes to somebody else is a fact about that person, not the passage's own position.	<i>"The panel expects" is a report, not a claim.</i>
Name it before the options	Say "argument" or "fact set" before you read a single option. The name eliminates for you.	

Ex 1*worked through*

The Ashtapur district health office released its immunisation figures last week. Coverage for the first dose of the measles vaccine stood at 91 per cent of infants; coverage for the second dose stood at 64 per cent. The gap between the two doses has widened in each of the last three years.

The office also reported that the number of health workers assigned to follow-up visits fell from 140 to 96 over the same period. Those workers are the only staff who track a child between the first dose and the second.

Which one of the following best describes the passage above?

- (A) It concludes that the fall in follow-up staff caused the widening gap between the two doses.
- (B) It sets out a group of related measurements and defends no claim of its own.
- (C) It recommends restoring the follow-up workforce to its earlier strength.
- (D) It reports that second-dose coverage has risen in each of the last three years.

THE TASK Argument or fact set. The stem asks what the passage is doing, not what it proves.

PREPHRASE Every sentence here is a count or a change in a count. Nothing is offered as a reason for anything else, so I expect the key to say: facts, no claim.

EVERY OPTION ON TRIAL

- (A) This is the option I would have picked at sixteen, and it is very nearly true — the numbers are arranged so that you supply the causal link yourself. The passage does not supply it. Nothing here says the fall in staff produced the gap.
- (B) Correct. Run the "so what?" test on each sentence and the passage never answers. The staffing fall sits next to the coverage gap; it is not offered as the reason for it. Two facts placed side by side are still two facts.
- (C) No sentence recommends anything. A recommendation is a claim, and the moment you can point to one you are no longer looking at a fact set. Point to it here and you cannot.

The polarity is wrong before the content is. A widening gap between first and second dose is not a rising second

(D) dose. Check direction before you check anything else.

PROVED BY The gap between the two doses has widened in each of the last three years.

Answer B

Notice how little work the passage does to make you build the argument for it. That is the design.

Ex 2

you put the options on trial

Belmara Labs has stopped bringing new antibiotics to market, and it is easy to blame the company for it. The blame is misplaced. An antibiotic that genuinely works is, by design, a drug hospitals will hold in reserve and use as sparingly as they can, which means the better it is the less of it gets sold.

No firm can fund a fifteen-year research programme out of a product it hopes nobody will need to buy. Until the money for these drugs comes from somewhere other than the volume sold, the pipeline will stay empty.

Which one of the following best describes the passage above?

- (A)** It argues that the firm should be compelled to resume antibiotic research.
- (B)** It reports, without evaluating them, the reasons a firm gave for leaving a market.
- (C)** It defends the claim that the empty antibiotic pipeline follows from how these drugs are paid for.
- (D)** It argues that hospitals should prescribe new antibiotics more freely so that firms can recover their costs.

THE TASK Argument or fact set, with the follow-up question: if it is an argument, what is it defending?

PREPHRASE "The blame is misplaced" is a verdict, and the paragraph after it explains why. So this is an argument, and the thing being defended is the alternative explanation: the money model, not the company.

Answer _____

Ex 3

you prephrase, then judge

The Dhanwati Nutrition Panel completed its survey of packaged snack labels in March. Sixty-two per cent of the packets surveyed carried a sugar figure on the front of the pack; the rest carried it only on the back, inside the ingredients block.

The panel's chairperson told reporters that she expects front-of-pack figures to become standard within five years. Manufacturers who already print the figure on the front reported no fall in sales over the survey period.

Which one of the following best describes the passage above?

- (A)** It argues that front-of-pack labelling will be standard within five years.
- (B)** It argues that most packaged snacks are mislabelled.
- (C)** It argues that printing a sugar figure on the front of a pack does not reduce sales.
- (D)** It sets out survey findings together with one person's expectation, and defends no claim of its own.

THE TASK Argument or fact set, with a reported opinion planted inside it.

Answer _____

Ex 4

on your own

A chemist in Eranpur will tell you that patients ask for the branded tablet even when the generic on the next shelf carries the same molecule at a fifth of the price. Doctors get blamed for this, and prescribing habits certainly matter.

But the habit survives because the generic arrives in a plain strip with a printed batch number and nothing else, while the branded box carries a hologram, a helpline and an expiry date a patient can read without a magnifying glass. Patients are not being irrational here. They are buying the only signal of quality anyone has bothered to offer them.

Make the plain strip carry the same signals and the price gap will start to close on its own.

Which one of the following most accurately describes what the passage does?

- (A)** It lists differences between generic and branded packaging without taking a position on them.
- (B)** It argues that prescribing doctors bear no responsibility at all for the habit.
- (C)** It treats one explanation of a habit as insufficient and defends a different one.
- (D)** It argues that generic tablets are of lower quality than branded ones.

Answer _____

Ex 5

on your own

Falgunia district began offering free blood-pressure screening at its primary health centres in January. In the first six months, 41,000 adults were screened. Of those, 9,200 recorded a reading above the threshold at which a centre is required to schedule a second check.

The district recorded 3,050 second checks over the same period. Officials have not yet published the number of people who were prescribed medication.

Which one of the following is true of the passage above?

- (A) It advances no claim, so no new evidence could weaken it.
- (B) It concludes that the district ought to publish its prescription figures.
- (C) It concludes that the screening programme is failing to follow up on the readings it produces.
- (D) It concludes that most adults in the district have blood pressure above the threshold.

Answer _____

SPOT THE TRAP

A study group at the Cheroli Institute reviewed six months of prescriptions at four urban clinics. Antibiotics appeared in 38 per cent of prescriptions written for children under five, against 21 per cent of those written for adults.

The group's lead author said at a press briefing that she expects the paediatric figure to fall once the clinics adopt the new dosing chart. The chart was introduced at two of the four clinics in April.

Which one of the following best describes the passage above?

- (A) It concludes that two of the four clinics now prescribe fewer antibiotics than the other two.
- (B) It argues that children under five are prescribed antibiotics too readily.
- (C) It reports research findings and a researcher's expectation without arguing for either.
- (D) It argues that the new dosing chart will bring down antibiotic prescribing for young children.

A strong student picked (D), and it is wrong. Work out what is wrong with it before you turn to the adjudication — naming the trap yourself is the whole exercise.

Why it seduces: The passage does contain that prediction, in almost those words, and the sentence after it supplies a fact that seems to be evidence for it. So the reader assembles an argument out of two adjacent sentences and then finds it on the page in an option. What actually happened is that a named person made a forecast and the passage wrote it down.

DRILL 1.1 – ARGUMENTS AND FACT SETS – THE "SO WHAT?" TEST

18 questions

The Ashtapur civic hospital treated 12,400 outpatients in June. Of these, 1,900 arrived on a referral from a primary health centre and the rest walked in without one. The outpatient block is open six days a week and has fourteen consulting rooms.

1. [1] Which one of the following best describes the passage above?

- (A) It defends the claim that the referral system is being under-used.
- (B) It reports figures about a hospital's outpatient load and defends no claim.
- (C) It recommends that the outpatient block open on a seventh day.
- (D) It argues that walk-in patients are treated less thoroughly than referred patients.

Free eye camps in Belmara have screened thousands of people, but the spectacles prescribed there are collected by fewer

than half of those who need them. The camps are held in the harvest month, when a second trip into town costs a day's wages. Move the camps and the collection rate will move with them.

2. [1] Which one of the following is the claim the passage defends?

- (A) Moving the camps to another month would raise collection.
- (B) Free eye camps in Belmara have screened many thousands of people over the years.
- (C) People who miss the camp collect their spectacles later in the year.
- (D) Spectacles prescribed at free camps are of poorer quality than those bought privately.

The Dhanwati Panel's register lists 214 packaged foods carrying a front-of-pack sugar figure. Ninety of those foods are marketed to children. The register is updated each quarter and published on the panel's website, where it can be searched by brand or by category.

3. [1] Which one of the following best describes the passage above?

- (A) It argues that foods marketed to children ought to carry a front-of-pack sugar figure.
- (B) It concludes that most of the listed foods are marketed to children.
- (C) It reports what a register contains and how it is maintained, and defends no claim.
- (D) It reports that the register can be searched only by brand.

Doctors at Cheroli General write their prescriptions by hand, and the pharmacy misreads roughly one in forty. A printed prescription cannot be misread. The hospital should therefore issue every consulting room with a printer, whatever the cost of the paper turns out to be over a year.

4. [1] Which one of the following states the conclusion of the argument above?

- (A) A prescription that is printed rather than handwritten cannot be misread.
- (B) Handwriting is the leading cause of error in hospital pharmacies.
- (C) Every consulting room should be issued with a printer.
- (D) The pharmacy should be required to confirm unclear prescriptions by telephone.

A trial of a new anti-malarial ran at three centres in Eranpur. The drug cleared parasites from the blood faster than the standard treatment at two of the three centres. The trial's sponsor described the result as encouraging. Data from the third centre have not yet been released.

5. [1] Which one of the following does the passage assert?

- (A) The new drug is more effective than the standard treatment.
- (B) The sponsor described the result as encouraging.
- (C) The result of the trial is genuinely encouraging.
- (D) The third centre found no difference between the two drugs.

A levy on sugary drinks is often called a tax on the poor. But the households buying the most sugary drinks are also the households with the highest rates of untreated dental disease, and dental treatment is precisely what they cannot afford. A levy that funds free dental clinics would leave them better off, not worse.

6. [1] Which one of the following best describes the passage above?

- (A) It sets out two competing views about the levy without endorsing either of them.
- (B) It defends the claim that this levy would benefit the households said to be harmed.
- (C) It argues that sugary drinks are the direct cause of untreated dental disease.
- (D) It argues that every tax on food or drink should be used to fund health services in the district.

Ashtapur's blood bank collected 4,100 units last year, of which 3,600 came from camps organised by colleges. The bank discarded 210 units after testing. Its cold-storage capacity is 900 units, and stock has stood above 800 units on eleven days since April.

7. [1] Which one of the following best describes the passage above?

- (A) It argues that the blood bank needs greater cold-storage capacity.
- (B) It sets out collection, wastage and storage figures without drawing anything from them.
- (C) It concludes that college camps are the most efficient way to collect blood.
- (D) It reports that most of the discarded units came from college camps.

Ward councillor: The new fever clinic has cut waiting times at the main hospital, so it should be replicated in every ward.

District health officer: Waiting times fell in the same month the hospital added two night shifts. Until we can separate the two, the clinic has not been shown to have done anything.

8. [L2] Which one of the following is the claim the district health officer defends?

- (A) The evidence offered does not establish that the clinic reduced waiting times.
- (B) The fever clinic should be replicated in every ward of the district.
- (C) The fever clinic did not reduce waiting times at the main hospital.
- (D) Adding night shifts is a cheaper way to cut waiting times than opening fever clinics.

The Falgunia health department's newsletter records that 78 of the district's 96 sub-centres now stock the full essential-medicines list. A supplier quoted in the same newsletter says the remaining eighteen will be stocked by December, and adds that the department should therefore stop buying from local wholesalers.

9. [L2] Which one of the following best describes the passage above?

- (A) It argues that the department should stop buying from local wholesalers.
- (B) It reports a stocking figure and a supplier's claims, and takes no position on either.
- (C) It reports that every sub-centre will be stocked by December.
- (D) It argues that local wholesalers deliver more slowly than the quoted supplier does.

Nursing establishments in Belmara's hospitals are set per bed, not per patient. A thirty-bed ward gets the same establishment whether it runs at half occupancy or turns its beds over twice a day. That is why the busiest wards feel understaffed while the register insists they are not.

10. [L2] Which one of the following best describes the passage above?

- (A) It reports how nursing establishments are calculated, without passing comment on the method.
- (B) It argues that Belmara's hospitals employ too few nurses across the board.
- (C) It defends the claim that the basis of the calculation explains the staffing mismatch.
- (D) It argues that establishments ought to be set per bed rather than per patient.

The price of a month's supply of the commonest blood-thinner fell by 40 per cent in Eranpur after the patent expired. Pharmacists have reported no change in the number of patients filling the prescription each month. The manufacturer says the fall proves the market is working.

11. [L2] Which one of the following does the passage assert?

- (A) The cost of treating a patient on the blood-thinner has fallen by 40 per cent.
- (B) The patent's expiry has made the drug affordable for everyone who needs it.
- (C) The market for the blood-thinner is working exactly as it should.
- (D) Pharmacists have reported no change in the number filling the prescription.

Antibiotic resistance in Cheroli's hospitals rose in the three years after over-the-counter sales were restricted. The restriction cannot be the cause. Resistance in the district's dairy herds rose over the same period, and no herd has ever bought an antibiotic across a counter. Something is feeding both curves, and it is not the shop.

12. [L2] Which one of the following is the conclusion of the argument above?

- (A) Resistance in the district's dairy herds rose over the same three years.
- (B) The restriction raised resistance in hospitals but left the herds untouched.
- (C) Antibiotic use in dairy farming ought to be regulated as well.
- (D) The restriction on over-the-counter sales is not what caused the rise in resistance.

Trial investigator: Our test found early disease in 300 of the 10,000 people we screened. Mass screening saves lives.

Statistician: Finding disease early is not the same as changing what happens to the patient. Unless those 300 live longer than they would have without the test, you have measured detection, not survival.

13. [L2] Which one of the following is the claim the statistician defends?

- (A) Mass screening of the kind trialled here saves lives.
- (B) Early detection of disease is of no value to a patient.
- (C) The figure cited does not by itself show that screening improves survival.
- (D) The trial has shown that the people whose disease was detected will live longer.

Falgunia's tuberculosis programme reports that the share of patients completing treatment rose from 68 per cent to 74 per cent last year. The programme also enrolled 2,000 fewer patients than the year before. Its annual report calls the completion figure the best in the district's history.

14. [L2] Which one of the following best describes the passage above?

- (A) It reports that the share of patients completing treatment fell last year.
- (B) It argues that the programme has become better at treating tuberculosis.
- (C) It establishes that more patients completed treatment last year than in the year before.

(D) It reports a rise in a rate, a fall in enrolment, and the report's own description.

Every child in Ashtapur admitted with severe malnutrition is referred to the nutrition rehabilitation centre. The centre's register shows 240 admissions this year against 190 last year. The district's paediatric wards report no increase in severe malnutrition and no change in referral practice.

15. **[L3]** Which one of the following is true of the passage above?

- (A)** It sets two sets of figures beside a report that does not sit easily with them, and concludes nothing.
- (B)** The centre's register shows a rise, and severe malnutrition in the district has risen with it.
- (C)** Rehabilitation centres in neighbouring districts are admitting more children too.
- (D)** Every child admitted to the rehabilitation centre was admitted with severe malnutrition.

The Belmara sugar levy has been in force for two years. Sales of taxed drinks fell 12 per cent over that period; sales of untaxed fruit juice, which carries about as much sugar per glass, rose 9 per cent. The levy's designer told a committee that the policy was working as intended.

16. **[L3]** Which one of the following best describes the passage above?

- (A)** It argues that the fall in taxed-drink sales was produced by the rise in fruit-juice sales.
- (B)** It argues that the levy is working exactly as it was intended to.
- (C)** It reports that sugar consumption in Belmara has fallen by 12 per cent.
- (D)** It reports two movements in sales and one official's assessment, and endorses neither.

Some campaigners argue that generic substitution should be automatic at the counter, whatever the patient says. That goes too far. What is indefensible is the present rule: a pharmacist who cannot substitute even when the patient asks must send that patient back across town for a signature that changes nothing, and a patient who makes that trip once will not make it twice.

17. **[L3]** Which one of the following is the claim the author defends?

- (A)** Generic substitution should be automatic at the counter in every case.
- (B)** The present rule is indefensible because patients cannot afford branded medicines.
- (C)** Pharmacists should be allowed to substitute a generic when the patient asks.
- (D)** Every rule requiring a fresh prescription for a substitution should be abolished.

Every clinic in Dhanwati that stocks the full essential-medicines list receives a quarterly quality grant. Twelve clinics received the grant this quarter. The district has forty-one clinics in all, and its supply office says three more will complete their stock lists by March.

18. **[L3]** Which one of the following is true of the passage above?

- (A)** It follows that a clinic which does not stock the full list receives no quarterly grant.
- (B)** It argues that the grant is too small to change how clinics stock themselves.
- (C)** It sets out a rule, a count and a forecast, and defends no claim.
- (D)** It reports that the number of clinics stocking the full list has fallen this quarter.

1.2 Premises, conclusions, and the indicator words

A student once told me she had a foolproof method: underline every "therefore" and circle whatever came after it. It worked for about a month. Then she met a passage that put its conclusion in the first sentence and the word "because" in the second, circled a premise, and lost the mark she had been most confident of.

Indicator words are signposts, not positions. "So", "therefore", "hence", "which is why" point forward, to a conclusion. "Because", "since", "for", "as", "given that" point backward, to a premise. The same argument can be written either way round with nothing changed but the word order — which is what the figure on this page does: it cuts one sentence at "so", then rebuilds it with "because" and the two halves swapped over. Same claim. Same support. Opposite arrangement.

So the indicator tells you which side of itself to look on. It does not tell you which sentence is the important one. That part is still yours, and passages that hide the conclusion in the opening line are not rare — they are a house style.

The indicator tells you which side of it to stand on

The levy raised no revenue	so	it should be withdrawn.
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PREMISE

CONCLUSION

Conclusion first, and the word moves with it:

The levy should be withdrawn,	because	it raised no revenue.
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The order changed. The roles did not.

'So' points forward to the conclusion; 'because' points back to the premise. The words are signposts, not positions.

THE METHOD

ASIDES & TRAPS

Find the word, then look	"So" and "therefore" point forward; "because" and "since" point backward. Read in the direction the word points.	
Swap the indicator	Rewrite the pair with the opposite word. If the sense survives the swap, you have the direction right.	<i>X because Y is the same argument as Y, so X.</i>
Expect no signpost at all	Many stimuli carry no indicator. Then support is shown by sense and position, and you must supply the arrow yourself.	
Quarantine borrowed indicators	A "therefore" inside a quotation belongs to the person quoted, not to the passage.	
Label first, choose later	Mark every sentence as support or claim before you decide which claim is the main one.	

Ex 1

worked through

The levy on sugary drinks should be extended to sweetened milk drinks, because the sugar in a flavoured milk carton is the same sugar and reaches the same children. Manufacturers say the milk in the carton makes it a different product. It does not, for the purposes of a sugar levy. A levy of this kind is aimed at a molecule, not at a category of shop shelf, and every exemption written into one becomes a marketing line within the month.

Which one of the following is the main conclusion of the argument above?

- (A) Manufacturers claim that the presence of milk makes a flavoured carton a different product.
- (B) Sugar levies ought to be designed without any exemptions whatever.
- (C) The levy on sugary drinks should be extended to sweetened milk drinks.
- (D) The sugar in a flavoured milk carton is the same sugar that is found in a taxed drink.

THE TASK Main conclusion, with the conclusion placed first and the support flagged by a backward-pointing indicator.

PREPHRASE "Because" points backwards. Everything to the right of it is payment; the claim is sitting to the left, in the opening clause. So the answer is the extension of the levy.

EVERY OPTION ON TRIAL

- (A) The manufacturers are quoted so that the next paragraph can knock them down. A view the passage exists to reject is never the passage's conclusion.
- (B) The passage argues against one particular exemption and remarks that exemptions get exploited. Neither of those is a rule that no levy anywhere may contain an exemption.
- (C) Correct. Strip the sentence at the comma and the left half is a recommendation with three separate reasons behind it — same molecule, same children, and the exemption argument in the second paragraph.
- (D) This is what the "because" introduces, which makes it the support. Reading it as the conclusion runs the argument backwards: it is offered to prop the recommendation up, not the other way round.

PROVED BY The levy on sugary drinks should be extended to sweetened milk drinks, because the sugar in a flavoured milk

The Anatomy of an Argument

How an argument is built, and how to find the one sentence the other three are there to hold up.

You have just read 10 of 48 pages.

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