

Statement and Assumptions, Strong & Weak Arguments, Cause and Effect

Statement and Assumptions

In these types of questions, a statement is given, followed by two assumptions, numbered I and II. You have to consider the statement and the following assumptions and decide which of the assumption is implicit in the statement.

An 'Assumption' is something supposed or taken for granted, i.e. 'Assumption' is the logical support for the statement. It is a fact that can be supposed on considering the given statement. Without the assumption being true, the conclusion cannot be true.

Rules for deciding implicit assumptions:

Rule 1: There can be more than one assumption in a given statement.

Rule 2: Qualifying words are helpful in deciding assumptions.

Rule 3: The assumption should be very simple.

Rule 4: If the assumption is wrong, then conclusion cannot be true.

Here are a few illustrations.

Solved Examples

Directions: In each of the following questions a statement is given, followed by two assumptions, numbered I and II. Consider the statement and decide which of the given assumptions is implicit. Mark your answer:

- (a) if only I is implicit
- (b) if only II is implicit
- (c) if neither I nor II is implicit
- (d) if both I and II are implicit

1. Statement:

Why don't you invite Atul to your marriage?

Assumptions:

- I. Atul is not from the same city.
- II. The speaker expects Atul will attend the marriage if invited.

Solution : (b)

Atul's place of living is not mentioned in the statement. So I is not implicit.

Assumption II follows from the statement. If Atul is not expected to attend the marriage the speaker would not recommend his name for an invitation.

2. Statement:

Whenever you have any doubt in this subject, you may refer to the book by Baltimore.

Assumptions:

- I. The book by Baltimore is available
- II. There is no other book on this subject.

Solution : (a)

The recommendation of the book by Baltimore implies that it is available. So I is implicit. Also the book has been referred to as a good one, but this does not mean that no other books are available on the subject. So II is not implicit.

3. Statement:

Nikhil wrote to his brother in Mumbai, asking him to personally collect the application from the university for a postgraduation course in mathematics.

Assumptions:

- I. The university may not issue application forms to a person other than the prospective student.
- II. Nikhil's brother may receive the letter well before the last date of collecting application forms.

Solution : (d)

Since Nikhil has asked his brother to collect the form, it is evident that the university may not issue the form to anybody other than the concerned individual. Nikhil's brother would receive the letter before the last date of collecting the forms is also implied. So both I and II are implicit.

4. Statement:

Cigarette smoking is injurious to health.

Assumptions:

- I. Non-smoking promotes health.
- II. This warning is essential for smokers.

Solution : (c)

Nothing is said about non-smoking in the statement, so assumption I is not implicit. The necessity of a warning is also not mentioned in the statement, so II is also not implicit. Hence, neither I nor II is implicit.

10.2 Statement and Assumptions, Strong & Weak Arguments, Cause and Effect

5. Statement:

Agricultural output in India is mainly dependent on rains.

Assumptions:

- I. If the rain is not good agricultural output will suffer.
- II. Rain is the only factor that governs the agricultural output.

Solution : (a)

Here, as it is said in the statement that agricultural output is mainly dependent on the rains, it means if the rain is not good then the output will suffer. Hence (I) is valid. (II) is not valid as the usage of word 'only' is contradictory here since the agricultural output may be dependent on other factors as well.

Strong and Weak Arguments

How will you present an argument in the boardroom, in a conference, in group discussions, and during negotiations...? How will you present your arguments in a forceful and convincing manner? Test your skills in this section.

As a question type it is rather hazy in its methodology. However, it develops a sharp sense of reasoning and a sense of appraisal in you.

The format is:

A question is presented as: *Should airhostesses be retire at 50?*

The question is followed by two arguments, Argument I and Argument II.

One in favour : Argument I Yes.

Because the age of fifty is it too late for retirement.

One against : Argument II No.

Because it's a sexist and retrograde position.

You have to evaluate the Yes and No arguments and mark:

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

How do we evaluate the arguments and decide if they are forceful or weak? A lot depends on the presentation of the arguments. These questions are purely and deeply verbal in nature; there is no formulaic method or short cut to find out if an argument is forceful or weak.

However, you should bear in mind these broad guidelines when you answer such questions.

A strong argument is *logical*, i.e. it should be consistent with the issue introduced by the question. For instance, in the above question if I argue: '*Yes, because airhostesses are usually rude*', it does not address the issue of retirement at 50 in any way. Such illogical arguments are not strong.

A strong argument is based on *reason* and not based on likes, dislikes, preferences, etc. For example if I argue, '*No because some women are extremely beautiful at 50*', what am I saying? Apart from being illogical I am being too emotional. The argument is subjective and based on *my* judgement. Such arguments are not considered.

A strong argument is *unbiased and objective*. For example: If I say, '*No, because it will differentiate between the male cabin crew who retire at 58, and the female cabin crew*'. This is a strong argument. It addresses the issue directly, logically, rationally, impassively and objectively. Opinions are to be eliminated. Subjective responses are also to be eliminated.

A strong argument *influences the decision on the given question*.

A strong or forceful argument *takes into account the system we are in and conforms with the largely accepted norms* in this system. '*No. Because it will discriminate between the male cabin crew who retire at 58, and the female cabin crew*', is a strong argument because it is not a feminist argument. It is likely to strongly influence any decision on the question of retirement of airhostesses. It also reinforces the democratic and egalitarian society we are live in. (Under any repressive fundamentalist regime like the one under Taliban in Afghanistan, will this argument be forceful? Will the question even be raised?). We also see that such issues and arguments are well accepted in our society. Hence, an argument has to be evaluated as strong/weak by the manner in which it can/cannot influence the question in a particular culture and in the context of the culture's principally accepted norms.

While all that is said above is true, remember that a strong argument is *not idealistic*. For instance, '*No. Because women are worshipped as goddesses in India*', etc. will be too idealistic and unrealistic.

The evaluation should also be in *absolute terms*. What this means is that you do not compare the two arguments and decide one is stronger than the other. The best way to avoid this is to read the question, evaluate the first argument. Make your decision. Read the question again. Evaluate the second argument. Make your decision.

A strong argument is *well presented*. (In a group discussion, the facts that one can recall may not be really strong, but through presentation skills, one can still influence people. Or, the facts are strong, yet one fails to

impress because of lack of presentation skills.) We are talking about the phrasing of a strong or weak fact. Look at, 'Yes. *Because the age of fifty may be too late to leave a job.*' Isn't the fact in this argument strong? – That at fifty, people generally lack the enthusiasm, energy, warmth and friendliness that this profession requires. I am not saying that this is a strong argument.

A strong argument *excludes the need for any further clarification*. When a strong argument is presented, the listener does not find the necessity to seek clarifications. For example, 'No. *Because it's a sexist and retrograde position*'. Listening to this argument, you understand that a lot is said in a few words. However, there is no need to ask for any clarifications. The speaker has made his/her point.

Understand also that *an argument can be strong yet not win the case*. Winning or losing is immaterial, when it comes to presenting or evaluating arguments, hence think about how a lawyer would present his argument with a desire to influence the judge.

Now, you are ready to practise.

1. Main Statement:

Should we ground the MiG-21s?

Argument I:

Yes. Because these are often called 'flying coffins', and we should not cut corners when it comes to safety.

Argument II:

No. There are multiple causes for their frequent crashes and effective measures are to be taken to solve these problems.

Solution :

Evaluate Argument I: This argument does forward a strong reason for grounding the MiG-21s. It also brings in the strong argument for 'safety', which no one can ignore. If the argument was merely "Yes. *Because these are often called 'flying coffins'*", it would be a weak argument, because of its rhetoric. And the fact that it brings in 'safety' and states that safety concerns outweigh whatever economic constraints there might be in grounding the MiG-21s overrides or justifies the rhetoric in the first part. It is rational, well presented and seeks no further clarification. It addresses the issue of grounding the MiG-21s directly. Argument I is **forceful**; this argument will influence the decision on this question.

Evaluate Argument II: This argument addresses the issue of grounding MiG-21s by mentioning their frequent crashes. It is relevant and logical. It rationally analyses the issue and states that there are multiple causes for their crashes and grounding

them is in a way closing your eyes to these issues. The argument also suggests that these causes should be dealt with, rather than taking the easy way out. This argument too is **forceful**. It will influence the decision on this question.

Answer is option (c). Both are forceful arguments.

Now, one can rightfully object to the question itself saying that the question and the arguments call for a fair level of general awareness on the candidate's part. In this case one is expected to know that there have been frequent crashes of the fighter plane MiG-21 of the Indian Air Force and that many pilots have lost their lives. Also, even though there are unresolved issues about their maintenance, pilots/trainees are required to fly these planes. This level of general awareness related to the country/culture/circumstances that we live in is required to evaluate an argument.

2. Main Statement:

Do our laws allow mob violence to go unpunished?

Argument I:

Yes, legalities often come in the way of conviction in cases of mob violence.

Argument II:

No. Mob violence is a political issue and judiciary has no role to play in it.

Solution :

Argument I: addresses the issue directly and talks about the 'legalities' (legalities are obligations imposed by the law) hindering convictions. We are all aware of the loopholes in the laws, used by the politicians and the powerful in order to avoid convictions. Argument I is relevant and logical in this respect. No further clarifications are required when you see it in the social context. Evaluating merely logically one can argue that these loopholes are assumed and have to be spelt out. This is where we should be aware of the commonly aware facts and reality of the society. And the reference to mob violence does impose a social perspective to this. A decision on this question would be definitely influenced by this argument. Argument I is forceful.

Argument II: is not forceful because the question of mob violence going unpunished is not addressed by the argument and on the contrary it talks about something that is not relevant to the question. Argument II sounds like a fanatic's argument, justifying the position that some people should not be punished.

Hence, the correct option is (a).

10.4 Statement and Assumptions, Strong & Weak Arguments, Cause and Effect

3. Main Statement:

Should those who sell fake drugs be hanged?

Argument I:

Yes, these drugs kill and maim hundreds.

Argument II:

No. The death penalty is no deterrent.

Solution :

Argument I: addresses the issues central to the question. There are two issues. One is the issue of selling fake drugs, and the other is the issue of 'hanging' or corporal punishment. The question has implicitly accepted capital punishment, and asks if this form of punishment should be meted out to those who sell fake drugs. The reason advanced in the argument is very strong with 'kill and maim hundreds' being a sufficient reason to justify the 'yes'. Argument I is forceful.

Argument II: is a general argument against death penalty. The issue of fake drugs is circumvented.

Argument II, for this reason, is not forceful and is unlikely to influence a decision on this question. Answer is option (a).

4. Main Statement:

Should there be Reservation for the underprivileged in the private sector too?

Argument I:

Yes. To create an equal society, we need legislation ensuring jobs quotas for the under privileged in the private sector as well.

Argument II:

No, because the job of the private sector is to generate wealth, not undertake social engineering.

Solution :

Argument I: is a forceful one in that it gets right to the crux of the matter by referring to the idea of a welfare state in 'to create an equal society', and 'legislation to ensure jobs to the underprivileged' (who is an underprivileged is not an issue in the question). The reason for the Private Sector to be

included in this, though not directly addressed is invoked by 'equal society', which includes the private sector.

Argument II: It does not address the issues raised by the question. It looks subjective, escapist, narrow, and prejudiced. One still seeks clarification because the role of the private sector is defined exclusive of social engineering. Apparently this social engineering excludes reservations too. A lot need to be clarified. Answer is option (a).

P.S. There are many unresolved issues here which most of us would like to argue. Your ideas on the subject should not cloud your evaluation of an argument. A strong argument may not necessarily win the case, but influences the decision. There is no further clarification sought on a forceful argument. Be objective.

5. Main Statement:

Should India immediately resume cricketing ties with Pakistan?

Argument I:

Yes. It's our turn to go there and we must do it. Let's begin with one-dayers.

Argument II:

No. Let's give bilateral talks some time. There's no point being hasty.

Solution :

Both the arguments accept the reality that cricketing ties between these two nations have been suspended. The issue raised by the question is resuming cricket ties 'immediately'. Argument I says we must because it is our turn, and even states how we should do this. They are opinions rather than arguments. I is not forceful on that count. Argument II on the other hand addresses issue of 'immediately' well. By disagreeing, it points out the risk in doing it immediately and that we have nothing to gain by being reckless. It says we should take an informed decision on the basis of bilateral talks. Hence, argument II is forceful. Answer is option (b).



Exercise

Directions for questions 1 to 24: In each question a statement is given, followed by two assumptions, numbered I and II. An assumption is something supposed or taken for granted. You have to consider the statement and the assumptions and then decide which of the assumptions is implicit in the statement.

Mark your answer

- (a) if only I is implicit
- (b) if only II is implicit
- (c) if either I or II or both are implicit
- (d) if neither I nor II is implicit

1. Statement:

Many historians have distorted history by withholding the truth.

Assumptions:

- I. People believe what is reported by the historians.
- II. Historians are seldom expected to depict the truth.

2. Statement:

In order to achieve optimum industrial growth, the State Government should provide the necessary infrastructural facilities to the entrepreneurs.

Assumptions:

- I. The entrepreneurs are in need of infrastructural facilities from State Government.
- II. The State Government has not provided such facilities till now.

3. Statement:

All the employees except those who have been provided with travelling allowances, will be provided transport facilities free of cost from their home to the office.

Assumptions:

- I. Most of the employees will travel by the office transport.
- II. Those who are provided with travelling allowance will not read such notice.

4. Statement:

Despite heavy rains, traffic has not been disturbed.

Assumptions:

- I. Rains do not affect traffic movement.
- II. Adequate precautions were taken for traffic management during rainy season.

5. Statement:

The economy continues to be under-performing even after the introduction of various measures by the Union Govt.

Assumptions:

- I. The economy was expected to perform better after introduction of various measures
- II. The economy was performing poorly before the introduction of new variety of measures.

6. Statement:

No increase in grant for the purpose of R & D would be made in the context of the Institute's new priorities.

Assumptions:

- I. R & D requires funds.
- II. There are areas other than R & D which require more financial attention.

7. Statement:

The office building needs repairing just as urgently as it needs internal as well as external painting.

Assumptions:

- I. Efficiency of people working in the office cannot be improved unless office building is repaired.
- II. Repairing and painting of the office building requires funds.

8. Statement:

Interview conducted for selecting people for jobs should measure personality characteristics of candidates.

Assumptions:

- I. Performance on the job depends on personality characteristics.
- II. Personality characteristics can be measured in an interview.

9. Statement:

I have written several letters to the branch manager regarding my account in the bank but have not received any reply so far.

Assumptions:

- I. Branch manager is expected to read letters received from the customer.
- II. Branch manager is expected to reply to the letters received from the customer.

10.6 Statement and Assumptions, Strong & Weak Arguments, Cause and Effect

10. Statement:

"Though the candidates have been instructed to bring pencils, yet provide each invigilator some pencils", said the Principal to the test administration staff.

Assumptions:

- I. Pencils are in short supply.
- II. All the candidates may not bring pencils.

11. Statement:

"Please drop this letter in the letter box", an officer tells his assistant.

Assumptions:

- I. The assistant knows the address where the letter is to be sent.
- II. The assistant would follow the instructions.

12. Statement:

"If you want timely completion of work, provide adequate funds on time", an MP told the Govt.

Assumptions:

- I. There are not enough funds for the work.
- II. Delayed sanction of a fund hinders timely completion of work.

13. Statement:

"We need more books", the school staff informs the committee.

Assumptions:

- I. Books are available in the market.
- II. Present books are less in number.

14. Statement:

"Those who are appearing for this examination for the first time should be helped in filling up the form", an instruction to invigilating staff.

Assumptions:

- I. The form is somewhat complicated.
- II. Candidates can appear more than once for this examination.

15. Statement:

"Go and get the file", an officer ordered his subordinate.

Assumptions:

- I. The file is not urgent.
- II. The subordinate knows where the file is.

16. Statement:

"This drink can be consumed as it is or after adding ice to it", an advertisement.

Assumptions:

- I. People differ in their preferences.
- II. Some people will get attracted to the drink as it can be had as it is.

17. Statement:

"While coming back, you may come back via Rajkot because that is the shortest route", a travel agent tells a couple.

Assumptions:

- I. Coming by the shortest route is desirable.
- II. The couple is unconcerned about the length of the route.

18. Statement:

"To keep myself up-to-date, I always listen to the 9 p.m. news on the radio", a candidate tells the interview board.

Assumptions:

- I. The candidate does not read a newspaper.
- II. Recent news are broadcast only on radio.

19. Statement:

"This book is a must if you want to know about the history of our culture", a teacher tells his students.

Assumptions:

- I. The students want to learn about the history of their culture.
- II. The teacher does not know about other books on this subject.

20. Statement:

A good book, even if costly, is sold.

Assumptions:

- I. The quality of book is important for selling it.
- II. Cost is an important factor for selling a book.

Directions for questions 21 to 40: An interrogative sentence is followed by two arguments — one beginning with 'Yes' and the other with 'No'. You are to pick one of the following answer choices which is applicable to each of the following questions.

Mark:

- (a) if only argument I is forceful
 - (b) if only argument II is forceful
 - (c) if both the arguments I and II are forceful
 - (d) if neither argument I nor II is forceful
21. Should everyone in India work according to his capacity and get paid according to his needs?
- I. Yes, because this is the only method to eradicate poverty from India.
 - II. No, because it will be unjust to the hardworking.

22. Has India been consistently non-aligned?
 - I. Yes, because India has not sided with any big power.
 - II. No, because India did not condemn Russian occupation of Afghanistan.
23. Should education be job-oriented?
 - I. Yes, because the purpose of education is to prepare us for earning.
 - II. No, because education should only be for the sake of learning.
24. Should sports be made compulsory for all able-bodied students?
 - I. Yes, because it will keep them healthy.
 - II. No, because sports will divert the attention of the students from studies.
25. Should the Press in India be given full freedom to print whatever they choose to?
 - I. Yes, because only then people will become politically enlightened.
 - II. No, because such a Press will create problems.
26. Should India remain secular?
 - I. Yes, because that is the best way of maintaining harmony in a diverse culture like India.
 - II. No, because the different religious groups do not see eye to eye.
27. Should India abolish the present system of examinations?
 - I. Yes, because in the present system of examinations, the real estimate of a candidate's educational standard cannot be made.
 - II. No, because examination is the only method of testing the students.
28. Should religion and politics be kept apart in democracy?
 - I. Yes, because a religious attitude might be contrary to democratic thinking.
 - II. No, because religion is the basis of life for many and is bound to influence politics.
29. Should reservation of seats be discontinued in India?
 - I. Yes, because such a concession to any section of the society should not be given for an indefinite period.
 - II. No, because in a democratic society backward classes must be uplifted
30. Should strikes be excluded in essential services?
 - I. Yes, because strikes in essential services severely disrupt normal life.
 - II. No, because strike is the democratic right of the people.
31. Should certain educational qualifications be stipulated for ministers?
 - I. Yes, because uneducated ministers cannot take correct decisions.
 - II. No, because in a democratic set-up educational qualifications cannot be made mandatory.
32. Should all the universities in India have the same syllabus?
 - I. Yes, because migration of the students from one university to another will not create problems.
 - II. No, because the universities will lose their distinctive character.
33. Should manufacturing of tobacco products be banned?
 - I. Yes, because they are non-essential and mortally dangerous for human beings.
 - II. No, because those who are addicted to it will not be able to live without them.
34. Should income tax be abolished in India?
 - I. Yes, because it is an unnecessary burden.
 - II. No, because it is a vital source of revenue for the government.
35. Should some changes be brought about in the organization of the UN?
 - I. Yes, because the US influences all its decisions.
 - II. No, because a number of countries won't agree to the changes.
36. Should petrol be rationed in India?
 - I. Yes, because it is difficult to import more oil as its price has risen abnormally.
 - II. No, because rationing will encourage black-marketing.
37. Is it correct to say that the world has made real progress?
 - I. Yes, because there were so many inventions and discoveries.
 - II. No, because man has degenerated morally.

10.8 Statement and Assumptions, Strong & Weak Arguments, Cause and Effect

38. Should there be entrance tests for getting admission to colleges?
- Yes, because only serious and deserving students should enter colleges.
 - No, because even entrance tests will not be a true test of intelligence of the candidate.
39. Should India enter into a 'no war' pact with Pakistan?
- Yes, because this is the only way to live in peace.
 - No, because Pakistan is working against India by helping militants.
40. Should divorce laws in India be made more favourable towards women?
- Yes, because women in India who are persecuted by their husbands should be empowered.
 - No, because it will disrupt family life.

Directions for questions 41 to 50: In the following questions, two statements are given which bear a cause and effect relationship. The four options (a), (b), (c) and (d) exhibit this nature of relationship make the answer as:

- if statement I is the cause and statement II is its effect.
 - if statement II is the cause and statement I is its effect.
 - if both statements I and II are independent causes.
 - if both statements I and II are independent effects.
41. **Statement I:** The Delhi police have submitted the Israeli car blast report to home minister P Chidambaram, who has briefed the media in New Delhi.
- Statement II:** Home minister says a motorcycle rider attached a device to the right hand side rear door of the Innova and the explosion happened in seconds.
42. **Statement I:** With the creation of the Supreme Court of Calcutta in 1773 many Hindus of Bengal showed eagerness to learn the English language.
- Statement II:** In Bengal, Babu Buddinath Mukherjee advanced the introduction of English as a medium of instruction by enlisting the support of Sir Edward Hyde East, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
43. **Statement I:** Latest reports suggest that singer Whitney Houston may have died of prescription drugs and alcohol, rather than drowning in the bath tub.

Statement II: Whitney Houston's family was reportedly told by officials that she did not have enough water in her lungs to immediately conclude that drowning was the cause of death.

44. **Statement I:** Seeking to end the row with the Election Commission, Union Minister Salman Khursheed has expressed regret over his transgressing the law and undermining the poll code of conduct.

Statement II: The Election Commission had on Saturday written a letter to President Pratibha Patil seeking her intervention on Mr. Khursheeds alleged violation of a moral code of conduct.

45. **Statement I:** The Delhi High Court has set new guidelines on the distances within which the Capital's private unaided schools are allowed to admit children belonging to economically weaker sections under the Right to Education Act.

Statement II: The Delhi Government had in its notification said that private unaided schools would apply the same neighbourhood norms for admission of students from the poor and the disadvantaged groups and the general category.

46. **Statement I:** Tal Yehoshua Koren, an embassy official who is also the wife of Israel's defence attaché, sustained serious injuries when a bomb fixed to her Innova car went off at 3.15 p.m in New Delhi.

Statement II: Police in Tbilisi, Georgia, defused an identical magnetic explosive device shortly before the attack.

47. **Statement I:** The CEC found the tone and tenor of the remarks of the Law Minister as "utterly contemptuous and dismissive of the Election Commission and damaging to the level-playing field" in Uttar Pradesh assembly elections."

Statement II: The CEC sought "immediate and decisive" intervention of the President.

48. **Statement I:** The fresh auction of 2G spectrum is likely to see non-serious players exiting the telecom sector and also reduce the urgency of mergers and acquisition for streamlining the sector which has over a dozen players, the highest in the world.

Statement II: The communications and IT Minister A. Raja, now in jail for his alleged involvement in the 2G spectrum scam, gave away 122 licences to eight operators at throw-away prices of Rs.1,658 crore for a pan-India licence.

49. **Statement I:** The revenue that the government would earn from the 2G spectrum auction would depend on the demand-supply situation and the ability of companies to bid in view of the prevailing financial environment.

Statement II: The government and old operators would benefit as the former would reap rich dividends by auctioning 2G spectrum while the latter would add more subscribers, giving a much needed boost to its earnings.

50. **Statement I:** Disruption in power supply coupled with scheduled and unscheduled power cuts, led to the residents going without power for most part of the day.

Statement II: Residents of Puliakulam area on Monday evening resorted to a road blockade near the Vinayaka Temple protesting against prolonged disruption in power supply.



Answer Key

1. (a)	2. (c)	3. (d)	4. (b)	5. (c)	6. (c)	7. (d)	8. (c)	9. (c)	10. (b)
11. (b)	12. (c)	13. (a)	14. (c)	15. (b)	16. (a)	17. (a)	18. (d)	19. (d)	20. (c)
21. (b)	22. (b)	23. (a)	24. (a)	25. (d)	26. (a)	27. (d)	28. (c)	29. (b)	30. (a)
31. (b)	32. (d)	33. (a)	34. (b)	35. (d)	36. (c)	37. (d)	38. (a)	39. (b)	40. (d)
41. (a)	42. (a)	43. (b)	44. (b)	45. (d)	46. (d)	47. (a)	48. (b)	49. (d)	50. (a)



Explanations

1. a The fact that the historians have been able to distort history means that people believe what they (historians) say. Hence, I is implied. II is opposite of the main statement and is incorrect.
2. c Both I and II are implied. The State Government has been asked to provide the necessary infrastructural facilities to entrepreneurs, which means that these entrepreneurs are in need of such facilities and that the facilities have not been provided to them in the past (by the State Government).
3. d Assumption I is not valid as we do not know how many employees are given the travelling allowance and whether they will definitely prefer use office transport. Assumption II is also not valid as there is no reason why people availing travelling allowance will not read such notice.
4. b The main statement says that in spite of heavy rains, the traffic did not get disturbed (sort of an exception to a usual rule). Hence, assumption I is incorrect as it contradicts the main statement. Option II is implied as it is the reason behind the main statement (no traffic disturbance).
5. c Assumption I follows as the purpose of introducing a variety of measures was to increase the performance of economy. Assumption II is valid as it supports the purpose of introducing the variety of measures. Hence, both I and II follow.
6. c Assumption I follows as it is the reason why there is a talk of a grant in the main statement. Assumption II also follows as the R & D is given less priority as compared to the other areas. Hence, both the assumptions follow.
7. d Assumption I is not valid as it is more of a conclusion and moreover it is not directly linked with the main statement. Assumption II is not valid as it is not directly related with the main statement either. Hence, none of the assumptions are implied.
8. c Interviews for a particular job opening are conducted to select people who can perform well in that position. Hence, I is implied. Assumption II is also implied as personality characteristics can be measured if and only if it is possible to do so.
9. c Both assumptions I as well as II are valid as both of them talk about the duties of the branch manager. Hence, both follow.
10. b The purpose of providing pencils to invigilators is that in case the candidates do not bring pencils with them then they can be supported with the pencils available with the invigilators. The pencils are not in short supply, therefore assumption I is not valid. Hence, only II follows.
11. b Assumption I does not follow as it is not necessary that the assistant knows the place where the letter is to be sent. Assumption II certainly follows as it can be assumed very safely that the assistant will follow the instructions. Hence, assumption II follows.
12. c Assumption I follows because the demand for funds has been made in the first place because there are not enough funds. II also follows as work cannot be completed if adequate funds are not provided on time.
13. a I is implied because if the staff is making a demand for more books it can be safely assumed that books are available in the market. Assumption II is not implied because a demand for more books does not mean that the present stock of books is low. The 'more books' may be of a specific author or genre.
14. c Assumption I is valid as in the main statement the invigilation staff are asked to help the candidates. Assumption II is also valid as the main statement specifically talks about the candidates who are filling up this form for the first time. Hence, both the assumptions are valid.
15. b Assumption I cannot follow because the urgency factor is not clearly stated in the main statement. Assumption II follows for sure because the officer has given the orders assuming that the subordinate knows of the file's location.
16. a Only I follows because the advertisement states that the drink can be consumed in two different ways after taking into account the fact that people differ in their preferences.
17. a Assumption I follows as it is because of such a preference (coming by shorter route that) the travel agent tells the couple about the shortest route. Assumption II does not follow as it is in contradiction to the main statement. Hence, only assumption I follows.
18. d None of the assumptions is implicit. Assumption I does not follow, as you never know about the candidates reading habits. Assumption II also is

Statement and Assumptions, Strong & Weak Arguments, Cause and Effect 10.11

- not valid as the usage of word 'only' makes it doubtful. Hence, none of them follows.
19. d Assumption I is not valid as the specific book is mentioned with the conditional 'if', which shows that the students may or may not want to know about the history of our culture. Assumption II does not follow as it cannot be said for sure whether the teacher is aware of other books than the one mentioned in the main statement. Hence, none of the assumptions follows.
20. c Assumption I is correct as it shows why a good book sells. Assumption II also follows as the speaker uses the phrase 'even if costly', which means cost plays an important role in selling of a book. So, both the assumptions follow.
21. b The question does not state anything about poverty eradication. Also, eradicating poverty at any cost seems too drastic. So, statement I is not valid. Not leaving any room for rewarding hard work seems unacceptable. Hence, statement II is valid.
22. b I is not valid as India may have aligned with other countries other than big powers. II presents a situation where India was not non-aligned. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.
23. a Argument I is strong as it states that the purpose of education is learning. Hence, education should be job-oriented. II is weak as it limits the objective of education to 'only' learning. There may be other objectives as well.
24. a Keeping students healthy is acceptable as one of the objectives of schools/colleges. Hence, I is strong. II is weak as it does not give evidence of how students' attention would get diverted.
25. d The first argument is based on just an assumption. Moreover, the use of 'only' makes the argument narrow. The second argument is vague as it does not state that how will the press be able to create problems. Hence, assumption II is weak.
26. a Statement I is strong as it is factually correct and does not go to the extreme of suggesting that this is the only way. Statement II is weak, because though it says NO, its reasoning supports an argument in favor of the given statement.
27. d If the present system of examination has any short coming, it can be rectified. Hence, statement I is not a strong reason to abolish examinations. Statement II is a weak argument because of the use of the word 'only'. There could be other methods too. Hence the correct answer should be (d).
28. c Statement I can certainly be true in some cases and since it says 'might', it is factually correct and hence strong. Statement II is also an acceptable fact and convinces us that it is not possible to separate religion and politics.
29. b Statement I is not actually supporting the argument as it does not disagree with reservation, but simply seeks to put a time ceiling on this benefit and hence does not oppose reservation. Statement II is factually correct and forms the basis of reservation in the first place.
30. a I is certainly a strong and convincing argument as it states that strikes (in essential services) would severely disrupt normal life, hence causing discomfort to the citizens. II is not a strong argument as it is very general in nature and does not specifically talk about essential services.
31. b The first argument is weak and more of an assumption, because it assumes that uneducated persons cannot take correct decisions. The second argument defines the essence of democracy and is a strong argument.
32. d The first argument assumes that the only purpose (or at least a major purpose) of universities is to look after the interests of the migrating students. This assumption is not correct. The second argument is weak because despite same syllabus, universities can maintain their distinctive character (look at the case of schools). Hence, both I and II are weak.
33. a Given that they are non-essential and mortally dangerous I is a strong argument for banning tobacco products. II is not strong as it promotes the vice because it exists.
34. b Statement I is not strong. It is very debatable whether income tax is 'unnecessary'. Statement II is strong as income tax is a vital source of income and this is a compelling reason for the government to continue with it.
35. d Argument I is not strong because we can't really comment whether the influence of the US on UN decisions is good or bad. II is weak as mere disagreement by other countries is not a strong reason to prevent changes.
36. c I presents a strong economic argument for rationing, while II presents a near certain (based on experience) major ill-effect of rationing. Both are strong arguments.
37. d 'Real' progress need not be made even with inventions and discoveries. Hence, I is weak. Also, 'moral degeneration' does not necessarily mean

10.12 Statement and Assumptions, Strong & Weak Arguments, Cause and Effect

that the world has not progressed. So II is also weak.

38. a I advocates that entrance tests will achieve the objective mentioned. This is acceptable and since we would want eligible students in colleges, I is strong, II is weak, as it simply complains of the inadequacy of a method without evaluating the alternatives.
39. b Statement I is not a strong argument as it is rejected because of the use of the word 'only'. Statement II is strong as it deals with the core issue of the two countries bilateral relationship and Indian interests are under major threat as a result of the help being given to militants by Pakistan. Hence correct answer should be (b).
40. d Merely making a law more favorable will not necessarily empower women. I is weak as it ignores the possibility that some unscrupulous women might misuse the divorce laws. II is weak as it is very vague and does not provide a concrete reason for not making divorce laws more favorable towards women.
41. a The result of the Delhi police having submitted the blast report to the home minister was that the latter could make a clear statement about how the blast happened. Therefore, I is the cause and II is its effect.
42. a Statement I shows the eagerness to learn the English language and Statement II the resultant action of that eagerness. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.
43. b II is the cause and I the effect because the report that there wasn't enough water in her lungs to prove drowning led to the suggestion that the singer might have died of drugs and alcohol, rather than drowning in the bath tub. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.
44. b The Election Commission's act of seeking the President's intervention led to the Union Minister's expressing of regret for his actions. Therefore, II is the cause and I the effect of it.
45. d In both the cases the common cause of the action is admission criteria for admission of students of the poor and the disadvantaged groups. Hence, the statements I & II are two independent effects of a common cause.
46. d There is no relation between the two statements. I talks about an event in New Delhi while II talks about an entirely different event that had taken place in Georgia. Therefore, we can say that both the statements are independent effects.
47. a II is clearly the effect of I – because the CEC found the remarks of the Law Minister improper, it sought the intervention of the President.
48. b The result of the imprisonment of the IT Minister (because he had given away the licenses at throw away prices) was the fact that a fresh auction will take place and non-serious players would exit the fresh auction. So statement I is the effect of the imprisonment of the minister in statement II.
49. d Both the statements are talking about the effects of the 2G spectrum auction. Hence, they are two effects of a common cause.
50. a Going without power for most of the day troubled the residents which caused them to stir against the authorities. Hence I is the cause and II is the effect.