

Critical Thinking Practice Exam v 2.0 Key**Part I: Deductive and Inductive Arguments**

Exam each argument below and determine whether it is deductive, inductive, valid, sound, strong, and/or cogent. If it is not a sound argument, or if it is not a strong argument, explain why.

Argument 1

P1: If Gondorf does not do well in college, he will fail in life and will not be happy.

P2: Gondorf does not do well in college. _____

C: He will fail in life and will not be happy.

Affirming the antecedent is a valid argument.

Not sound because Gondorf can still succeed in life and be happy even if he does not do well in school Academics is not for everyone.

Argument 2

P1: If there is snow in the mountains, it is winter.

P2: It is not winter. _____

C: Therefore, there is no snow in the mountains.

Denying the consequent is a valid argument.

Not sound because the argument does not specify the geographic location. There are mountains in specific locations that can have snow in other seasons.

Argument 3

P1: If I stroll along the river under the moonlight at midnight, the ducks fly from the shore.

P2: At midnight, the ducks along the river fly from the shore above a pedestrian who is illuminated by the moonlight. _____

C: Therefore, I stroll along the river under the moonlight at midnight.

Affirming the consequent is an invalid argument.

There can be other reasons that would trigger the ducks flying from the shore.

Argument 4

P1: If Gi Gi eats Twinkies, she is overweight.

P2: Gi Gi does not eat Twinkies.

C: Therefore, she is not overweight.

Denying the antecedent is an invalid argument.

There could be other reasons can cause her to be overweight.

Argument 5

Alexandra's last boyfriend, Archilles, 1) was unorganized, 2) has a hard time expressing his feelings, 3) has an unstable career, and 4) does not like dramatic movies like Alexandra does. Their relationship lasted for about four months. About six months later, she runs into Anaximander. Alexandra enjoys being with Anaximander. They enjoy doing many things together and they are able to have long-conversations about many things. Alexandra really wants to ask Anaximander out. The problem is, Anaximander, like Archilles, is 1) unorganized and 2) has an unstable career. Alexandra concludes that if she goes out with Anaximander, their relationship will likely end just like her last relationship with Archilles. Did Alexandra make a good decision?

This is a bad inductive argument based upon generalization.

Part II: Informal Fallacies

State the fallacy being committed in each of the following.

1. Robin Banks asked 10 of his coworkers whether or not they like the cafeteria food. Five out of the ten coworkers (50%) gave a negative response. From this study, Robin Banks concluded that 50% of the employees at his company (which has a total work force of 10,000 employees) must also not like the cafeteria food. Did he make a good assumption?

Hasty generalization

2. Lou Natic does not like Bo Bo's conservative philosophy. For this reason, Lou Natic does not think any of Bo Bo's arguments are as good as his.

Attacking the person