

2012

Critical reasoning: Quiz 1

OER University

The aim of this course is to provide an opportunity to acquire critical thinking tools to critically analyse and evaluate knowledge claims. These tools are crucial to making informed decisions in study, work and private situations. This quiz should be completed as part of Topic 3 and provides an opportunity to reflect on learning from Topics 1, 2 and 3.



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Instructions

Answer all questions. For each question you must identify the one correct Answer and record your Answers in a digital file. When you are ready, post YOUR suggested answer to the course Blog site. Now compare your responses to those of other students. Initiate a discussion with students who have responded differently and try to come to an agreement on the best possible response.

Questions/activities

1. Read the following claim:

“Critical reasoning is a reflective activity that involves the ability to raise critical questions about our beliefs and assumptions by employing precise rules for testing the validity of our claims.”

Is this claim true or false?

1 True

2 False

2. Read the following statement:

“The following is not an argument: ‘And you want me to vote! I am not going to vote because no matter for whom I vote, I still won’t get a job.’”

Is this statement true or false?

1 True

2 False

3. Complete the following statement, making use of the options provided below:

“When we uncritically harbour preconceived ideas, we block our way to clear thinking and to _____.”

1 “acting justly”

2 “true justified belief”

3 “reality”

4 “cognitive thinking”

4. Read the following sentence:

“Women are inferior to men.”

What type of preconceived idea is this utterance an example of?

1 Naming

2 Social conditioning

3 Labelling

4 Stereotyping

5. Complete the following statement, making use of the options provided below:

“Another name for an either-or argument is false dilemma, because
_____.”

- 1 “it offers alternatives that are mutually exclusive”
 - 2 “it does not take the complexity of statements into account”
 - 3 “it presents an either-or choice when in fact there are more alternatives”
 - 4 “it categorises statements”
-

6. Read the following passage and identify what kind of fallacy is committed:

“The theory of evolution cannot be true. The Bible says the world was created in seven days. And everything the Bible says is true, because it is the word of God.”

- 1 Petitio principii
 - 2 The straw man argument
 - 3 Hasty generalisation
 - 4 Argumentum ad vericundiam
-

7. Read the following passage and identify what kind of fallacy is committed:

“Intentionally taking the life of a human being is murder. Thus, it should be clear that mercy killing is nothing but the intentional murder of a human being.”

- 1 Begging the question
 - 2 Distraction
 - 3 Slippery slope argument
 - 4 Equivocation
-

8. “If Maria were rich, she would own a car. So, if she owns a car, she must be rich.” This is the fallacy of:

- 1 Affirming the consequent
- 2 Denying the antecedent
- 3 False dilemma

4 Excluded middle

9. Read the following passage and identify what kind of fallacy is committed:

“Have you always been so lazy and careless?”

1 False dilemma

2 Hasty generalisation

3 Complex question

4 Argumentum ad vericundiam

10. Read the following passage and identify what kind of fallacy is committed:

“Of course Management will be reasonable about the Union’s demand for a salary increase. After all, man is a rational animal.”

1 False dilemma

2 Equivocation

3 Straw man argument

4 Hasty generalisation

11. Examine the following statement:

“Monarchy is the best form of government for African countries.”

What is this statement an example of?

1 A persuasive definition

2 A value statement

3 A definitional generalisation

4 A stipulative definition

12. Study the following text and then determine what kind of definition is being used in the text:

“In my argument for the ethical justifiability of abortion, I take the concept ‘person’ to mean a creature who has a concept of self; has the ability to reason; can work with others; is subject to the law and is protected by it.”

1 A persuasive definition

2 A logical definition

3 A denotative definition

4 A stipulative definition

13. Examine the following claim and then determine what kind of definition is being used:

“A chauvinist is someone who argues that women are inferior to men.”

1 A persuasive definition

2 A logical definition

3 A denotative definition

5 A stipulative definition

14. Read the following statement and then identify the type of definition being used:

“A statement is an assertion that is either true or false.”

1 A persuasive definition

2 A logical definition

3 A denotative definition

4 A stipulative definition

15. Examine the following argument:

“AIDS is a scandal and threat to the social status of African communities. Therefore, cases of people who are HIV-positive should be kept secret to protect the social well-being of African communities.”

What is this argument an example of?

1 Labelling

2 Hasty generalisation

3 Preconceived idea

4 Discrimination
