

Critical Reasoning, PHIL105.004, Spring, 2008

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NAME _____

Exercise Set #2 - Hi. Here is the second Exercise Set for this term. It is due by the end of the day, **Friday, April 25**. You can hand your finished assignment in at class-time, or place it in my mailbox in the English and Philosophy Department mailroom, (MacAlister 5057), or slip it under my office door, (MacAlister 5030), any time Friday up until 5:00. If you email it, it will be considered on time if sent before midnight Friday night. Please follow all the instructions carefully, and let me know if you'd like me to clarify anything, or if you have any questions at all.

Exercise 2.1 Questions - *Instructions: Answer the five questions below in a clear and detailed manner, in at least about eight sentences each, in your own words as much as possible.*(6 pts. each)

1. Explain in your own words what Joel Best sees as "the problem of bad statistics," and what he takes to be the solution to this problem. What particular facts about statistics does he regard as especially important to consider in assessing arguments based on them?

2. Describe in detail the general approach or mind-set Joel Best recommends we take in relation to statistics. How does this approach differ from the ways he says people commonly approach statistics?

3. Identify clearly and carefully the main characteristics of inductive and deductive arguments based on our discussion of inferences from Chapter 3 of the text.

4. Define "inductive fallacy" and explain the four common ways inductive fallacies occur in a sentence or two each. Think of an original example for one of these four types and identify which type it illustrates.

5. Explain the three questions to ask in assessing deductive arguments in at least a couple of sentences each.

2.2 Deductive Argument Analysis and Inference Recognition – *Instructions: Analyze the deductive arguments below. For each, circle or format in bold italic any logical indicators, put the conclusion in brackets, and underline all of the premises. Then write the name of its valid pattern or fallacy in the space below the argument. (5 points each)*

1. Violent crimes will not continue to be frequent because we have made it hard for criminals to get guns. Violent crimes will be frequent if it is easy for criminals to get guns.

2. This patient is showing clear signs of hypothermia, therefore, she must be given a blanket, a hat, and gloves. If a patient shows signs of hypothermia, he or she should immediately be given a blanket, a hat and gloves.

3. No one will get any homework done if there's a playoff game on TV tonight. If we eat leftovers for dinner, then we'll be done with dinner early. Thus, we'll be done with dinner early if there's a playoff game on TV tonight.

4. The coastal highway is still closed due to damage from the hurricane, so, you'll have to take route 113 to get to Point Pleasant. You can get to Point Pleasant by taking route 113, or else you can get there by driving along the coastal highway.

5. Frank would be excited and happy right now if Janet agreed to go to the prom with him. But Frank is glum, hence, Janet must not have agreed to go to the prom with him.

6. If energy companies dramatically shift to agricultural sources of energy, it will increase starvation in the Third World, seeing as if there is a dramatic shift, it will drive the prices of basic commodities like wheat and rice up sharply. And if the prices of basic commodities rise sharply, millions will starve.

7. Raquel is a student in the College of Arts and Sciences. All students in the College of Arts and Sciences are students of Drexel University. Consequently, Raquel is a Drexel student.

8. We could have a pool party for Vicky's birthday, or take her to a Phillies game, or go out to dinner with the family. But I think it will be too cool to have a pool party on her birthday, which is in April. As a result, we'll have to take her to a Phillies game.

2.3 Deductive Inference Recognition – *Instructions: Match each argument with the appropriate letter from the list. Use each letter once. (3 points each)*

a. disjunctive syllogism	c. <i>modus ponens</i>	e. universal categorical syllogism	g. broken chain	i. denying the antecedent
b. hypothetical chain	d. <i>modus tollens</i>	f. false dilemma	h. affirming the consequent	j. undistributed middle

1. ___ You must not have taken a lot of required classes in your first two years because you have no room for electives in your final two years. If you take a lot of your required classes during your first two years of college, then you can take mostly electives in your last two years.
2. ___ Francine’s new house must be in the tornado zone, since it is in Kansas, and all of the houses in the tornado zone are in Kansas.
3. ___ We’ll have to get a high definition TV if we rent the place in Ocean City this Summer, since we’ll be spending a lot of time at the beach if we rent the place in Ocean City this Summer, and we’ll have to get a high definition TV, if we want to hang out in the basement and watch the Phillies.
4. ___ The Senator will not be indicted by the Grand Jury, because he would have been indicted by the if he had done anything illegal. And he has not done anything illegal.
5. ___ We’ll have to visit your relatives in South Carolina during Spring Break, seeing as we won’t be able to get our passports in time to go to Canada, and we could either go to Canada for Spring Break, or we could visit your relatives in South Carolina.
6. ___ I know she would be thrilled if Annabelle got the promotion she worked so hard for, and Annabelle looks like she’s very excited and happy. Thus, Annabelle must have gotten the promotion she worked so hard for.
7. ___ I am going to sell my gas-guzzler, for the price of gas continues to rise, and I’ll have to sell it if the price of gas continues to rise.
8. ___ You should plan to take the GRE and apply to graduate schools next year. Here’s why—You can either plan to take the GRE and apply to graduate schools next year, or you can continue on the medical school track and stay at Drexel two more years, or you can take some time off to consider other possibilities, and you already know that you aren’t going to be happy continuing on the medical school track.
9. ___ Given that all students who are in the Study Abroad program have to have a valid passport and visa, Emily must have her passport and visa, since she is enrolled in the Study Abroad program.
10. ___ If the squirrels eat all my bulbs this Spring, I won’t have time to plant a vegetable garden, since I will have to build a new anti-squirrel fence if the squirrels eat my bulbs this Spring, and I won’t have time to plant a vegetable garden, if I have to build a new fence.

Have a great weekend!!!