

VERBAL REASONING MCQ

for European institution competitions

Tous les matins, Marina donne à manger à ses trois chats.
Elle se rend ensuite chez Sara pour boire le café.
Alors qu'elle regarde par la fenêtre,
Sara aperçoit un chat gris en haut d'un arbre.
Elle demande à Marina s'il lui appartient. Marina lui répond que non.
Elle ne possède aucun chat gris.



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CHAPTER 11 - STATEMENTS EXPRESSING UNCERTAINTY

1. DEFINITION

Let's look at the next two statements:

- a) The murderer could be a woman.
- b) The murderer is a woman.

A statement expressing uncertainty is a statement which expresses two contradictory possibilities. That is the case with statement a):

- it is possible that the murderer is a woman;
- it is possible that the murderer is not a woman (hence that the murderer is a man).

A statement expressing uncertainty is a statement that can be written in the form of an alternative.

Statement a) can in fact be written as follows: "the murderer is either a man or a woman".

On the other hand, a statement expressing certainty is a statement that cannot be written in the form of an alternative.

That is the case with statement b): the murderer is (necessarily) a woman and the contrary cannot be considered (i.e. that the murderer is not a woman).

2. PRINCIPLES

Let's look at the probability of each of the two statements a) and b) being deduced from a text.

Statement a) can be deduced from a text in several cases: for instance, if the text does not mention the sex of the murderer or if it specifies that the murderer could be a man.

Statement b) can be deduced from the text only in one case: if the text specifies that the murderer is a woman. Statement a) is therefore less restrictive than statement b). It is therefore more likely to be deduced from a text than statement b).

Classification of statements from the least restrictive to the most restrictive:

1. Statement a): "could" (uncertainty)
2. Statement b): "is" (certainty).

It is less likely that a statement can be deduced from the text if it is certain.

By extension, it is more likely that a statement can be deduced from the text if it is uncertain.

The following table gives the probability that a statement can be deduced from a text based on key words expressing certainty or uncertainty.

Probability that a statement can be deduced from the text	Key words to be identified in the statement
Low (certainty)	Necessarily; certainly; it is clear that; etc.
High (uncertainty)	Verb in the conditional tense; perhaps; probably; according to some people; etc.

In the EU27, the unemployment rate for men in the first quarter of 2010 was 9.8%, compared with 9.3% for women. For the first time since the beginning of these statistics in 2000, in May 2009 the unemployment rate for men overtook the rate for women. In the United States, the unemployment rate was 10.7% for men in the first quarter of 2010 compared with 8.5% for women. During the crisis, the unemployment rate for men rose more quickly than for women in both the EU27 and the United States. Between the third quarter of 2007 and the fourth quarter of 2009, the unemployment rate for men rose by 2.9 percentage points (pp) in the EU27 and by 6.5 pp in the United States. During the same period, the increases for women were lower, namely 1.5 pp in the EU27 and 4.1 pp in the United States.

55. Which of the following statements is correct?

- a) Between the third quarter of 2007 and the fourth quarter of 2009, the unemployment rate for men in the United States and in the EU27 rose by 6.5% and 2.9% respectively.
- b) In the United States, the unemployment rate for men in the first quarter of 2010 was 2.2% higher than for women.
- c) In the EU27, the unemployment rate rose by 4.4 percentage points between the third quarter of 2007 and the fourth quarter of 2009.
- d) None of the above statements is correct.

In 2008, around 1.38 million women were diagnosed with breast cancer worldwide, accounting for around a tenth of all new cancers and nearly a quarter of all female cancer cases. The highest breast cancer rates are mainly in Europe with 332 000 new cases of breast cancer occurring in the EU27 in 2008. The usual way of detecting breast cancer is by mammography which, according to researchers, works very well for women over the age of 50 and gives results that are 95% accurate. But they highlighted that mammography is less effective for younger women, with the detection rate as low as 60% for women under the age of 50, who account for 20 per cent of all breast cancer cases.

56. Which of the following statements is correct?

- a) Worldwide in 2008, breast cancer accounted for nearly 1 in every 10 cases of cancer.
- b) 20% of women under the age of 50 have breast cancer.
- c) Mammography has proven to be ineffective in women under the age of 50.
- d) The breast cancer detection rate using mammography is greater than 60%.

34 ► B

Strategy

Statement c) seems absurd (the Mediterranean region would have to import citrus fruit in order to export it).

Order of analysis: a) then, if necessary, b) then, if necessary c).

Explanations for each statement

a) is not correct

The *larvae* (not the flies themselves) feed on citrus fruit.

b) is correct

The Mediterranean regions accounts for more than half (55%) of global citrus fruit exports.

c) is not correct

We know nothing about the ratio between the production and export of citrus fruit in the Mediterranean region.

d) is not correct

Statement b) is correct.

35 ► A

Strategy

No statement appears more likely or unlikely than any other. Statements a) and b) contain numbers that are easy to find in the text.

Order of analysis: a) then, if necessary, b) then, if necessary c) or d).

Explanations for each statement

a) is correct

The Commission has decided to grant food aid worth 15 million euros to the Horn of Africa. This aid is in addition to the 64 million in food aid granted since the start of the year.

b) is not correct

We only know the number of inhabitants who are potential beneficiaries of this aid in five countries in the Horn of Africa.