

CAN YOU MASTER THIS BRIEF TEST?

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING ARGUMENT:

"There are numerous mentally ill offenders in our prisons. This is shameful. The only point of punishment is deterrence. But to be deterred one needs to be a rational person, and a rational person is a person who understands the likely consequences of his or her actions. Mentally ill offenders are, by definition, less than fully rational. So they cannot be deterred, and should not be in prison."

- 1 Which of the following is an unarticulated assumption of the argument?
(a) that there are numerous mentally ill offenders in our prisons
(b) that imprisoning the mentally ill is shameful
(c) that imprisonment is a form of punishment
(d) that rational people understand the likely consequences of their actions
(e) that those who cannot be deterred should not be in prison
- 2 Which of the following is a flaw in the argument?
(a) It does not tell us anything about the definition of mental illness that it is using
(b) It starts from the assumption that we should be ashamed of our prisons
(c) It suggests that we have to embark on a very troublesome review of the way that imprisonment is used as a punishment
(d) It does not allow for the possibility that some people who were not mentally ill when they offended might become mentally ill in prison
(e) It relies on statistics
- 3 Which of the following can we most reliably infer that the author of the argument believes?
(a) that people should not be sent to prison except as a last resort
(b) that mentally ill people should be treated in hospital for their illnesses
(c) that offenders who are not mentally ill should always be punished by imprisonment
(d) that all offences have consequences
(e) that the point of punishment is not rehabilitation

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING PASSAGE:

"As the child grows up, the subjection of his conscience to the mind of the adult seems to him less legitimate, and except in cases of arrested moral development ... unilateral respect tends of itself to grow into mutual respect and to the state of cooperation which constitutes the normal equilibrium. It is obvious that since in our modern societies the common morality which regulates the relations of adults to each other is that of cooperation, the development of child morality will be accelerated by the examples that surround it."

- 4 Which of the following most accurately captures the main idea of the passage?
(a) children who are not set good moral examples will remain in a condition of arrested development
(b) it is illegitimate for adults to rely on their authority in dealing with older children
(c) the only way to run a modern society is by cooperation
(d) modern societies tend, by the kind of moral examples they set, to speed up the moral development of children
(e) young children do not respect anyone or anything
- 5 Which of the following claims is made by the author of the passage?
(a) that it is normal for adult human beings to cooperate
(b) that it is not respectful to defer to another person's authority
(c) that a young child will not learn to co-operate without the subjection of his or her conscience to the mind of an adult
(d) that adults in modern societies always respect each other
(e) that children develop in all sorts of different ways

The authors of the sample questions said that they would not be releasing the right answers – or the “most right” answers – because they wanted potential applicants to “think about the responses they would give and their reasoning for them”