Critical Inquiry Practice Test 1.0 Fall 2011    Dr. Michael C. LaBossiere

Directions: Read each question carefully and mark the best choice on the answer sheet. Please do not mark on this test sheet.

I True/False (1 point Each)

T F  1. From the standpoint of critical thinking, it is best to write so that the reader has to do the work in trying to understand what you have written.
T F  2. If a person has experience in an area, then that person must be an expert in that area.
T F  3. According to the text, the only good reason to buy a product is because you believe it will improve your life.
T F  4. The primary goal of an argument is to convince another person that you are right when s/he disagrees with you.
T F  5. From the standpoint of critical thinking, it is best to use the most complex language when writing so as to convince others you are intelligent.
T F  6. The following is an example of the fallacy of division: "I was told that the department voted against my proposal. So, everyone in the department must have voted against me."
T F  7. People can have opinions about factual matters.
T F  8. The following is an argument: "Giving the rich more tax breaks is like being Robin Hood, only in reverse."
T F  9. People tend to confuse the psychological force of words with their logical force.
T F  10. The Bandwagon cognitive bias is based on the psychological tendency to desire to avoid loss more than acquire a gain.
T F  11. In a good argument, the premises support the conclusion.
T F  12. An argument can have multiple conclusions.
T F  13. An expert is a person who, through education, training, or experience has special knowledge or ability in a subject.
T F  14. According to the text, ads can sometime provide the information that would cinch the decision to buy the product in question.
T F  15. Governments have been known to influence and even manipulate the news.
T F  16. A rhetorical definition aims primarily at persuasion.

II Multiple Choice (1 point each)

17. A definition by synonym defines a term by
   A) Presenting synonyms of words that mean the exact opposite of the term to be defined.
   B) Giving a word or phrase that means the same thing.
   C) Specifying the type of thing a term applies to and the difference between that thing and others of the same type.
   D) Pointing to, naming, or describing one or more examples of something to which the term applies.

18. One concern the text expresses about the news is
   A) That it can be too objective.
   B) That it can focus too much on important events.
   C) That it can be politically biased.
   D) All of the above.

19. Factors that affect the reliability of a person’s observations include
   A) The conditions under which the observation took place.
   B) The condition of the person making the observations.
   C) The bias or lack of bias of the person making the observation.
   D) All of the above.

20. An analytical definition is
   A) A definition used to introduce a new term or give a new meaning to an old term.
   B) A definition that specifies the type of thing the defined term applies to and the difference between that thing and other things of the same type.
   C) A definition used to influence attitudes or affect behavior.
   D) A definition that is used only to correct someone's ignorance.

21. If a claim is ambiguous then,
   A) The claim is not precise enough for the intended purpose.
   B) The claim has no meaning at all.
   C) The claim has two or more meanings and it is not clear which is intended.
   D) It works equally well on land and in water.

22. A stipulative definition is
   A) A definition used to introduce a new term or give a new meaning to an old term.
   B) A definition used to explain, illustrate or disclose important aspects of a difficult concept.
   C) A definition used to influence attitudes or affect behavior.
   D) A definition used in financial matters relating to stipends.

23. An argument consists of
   A) Claim s.
   B) Prem ises.
   C) A conclusion.
   D) All of the above.
24. Factors that influence people but are actually irrelevant to the truth of a claim include
   A) The relation of the speaker or writer to the audience.
   B) The qualities of the person making the claim.
   C) The psychological force of words.
   D) All of the above.

25. A single argument can have how many conclusions?
   A) As many as required.
   B) One.
   C) Two.
   D) Three, but only if the argument is extended.

26. The types of definitions discussed in the text include
   A) Analytical
   B) Lexical
   C) Stipulative
   D) All of the above.

27. When writing, it is a good idea to
   A) Be focused.
   B) Stick to the issue.
   C) Arrange the components of your writing in a logical order.
   D) All of the above.

28. A claim is
   A) An argument.
   B) Something that can be part of an argument.
   C) Always an attempt to prove something.
   D) All of the above.

29. Factors that limit the coverage of events in the news include
   A) Space or time.
   B) Concerns of the advertisers.
   C) The interests of the audience.
   D) All of the above.

30. It is reasonable to challenge the credibility of an eyewitness if
   A) He/she suffered from sensory impairment at the time of the observation.
   B) His/her memory is unreliable.
   C) He/she is not infallible.
   D) Both A and B.

31. Credibility depends on
   A) The claim itself and the source.
   B) How well you know the person making the claim.
   C) How much you like the person making the claim.
   D) All of the above.

32. A definition by example/ostensive definition defines a term by
   A) Presenting examples of subjective facts.
   B) Giving a word or phrase that means the same thing.
   C) Specifying the type of thing a term applies to and the difference between that thing and others of the same type.
   D) Pointing to, naming, or describing one or more examples of something to which the term applies.
Part I True/False

Part II MC
# Correct | Answer
---|---
1 | F
2 | F
3 | T
4 | F
5 | F
6 | T
7 | T
8 | F
9 | T
10 | F
11 | T
12 | F
13 | T
14 | T
15 | T
16 | T
17 | B
18 | C
19 | D
20 | B
21 | C
22 | A
23 | D
24 | D
25 | B
26 | D
27 | D
28 | B
29 | D
30 | D
31 | A
32 | D