Exercise walk-through

1.1 Verbal: reading and argument structure

GRE · GRE · GRE General Test

GRE Verbal: Reading and Argument Structure

- Follow the structure of an argument in connected **discourse** : claims, evidence and conclusions.
- Identify an **assumption** , the unstated link an argument needs.
- Track whose view each sentence reports.
- Answer single-answer, select-one-or-more and select-in-passage questions exactly as instructed.

Conclusion, evidence and assumption

- Find the conclusion first: what does the writer want you to accept? Words like "therefore" and "so" often mark it.
- The evidence is what is offered in support. The assumption is the gap between them.
- A causal conclusion from timing ("Y rose after X") assumes there is no other change that explains Y.

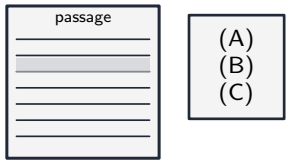
Worked example: a hidden assumption

- Evidence: sales rose after advertising increased (timing).
- Conclusion: advertising caused the rise.
- Assumption: no other change, such as a price cut or a competitor closing, explains the rise.
- An option that names a price cut in the same month weakens the argument; one showing sales stayed flat in a similar area without the advertising strengthens it.

Exercise 2.1

2.1 Original passage: [1] A town library's loans rose after it began sending reminders. [2] During the same month, a nearby library closed for repairs. [3] The increase therefore does not establish that reminders alone caused more borrowing. [4] A comparison with an otherwise similar library unaffected by closure would help assess that claim.

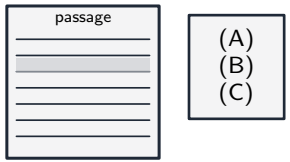
What is the main purpose? A. Prove reminders never work. B. Limit a causal inference and suggest a comparison. C. Show repairs reduce reading. D. Recommend closing libraries.



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(A)
(B)
(C)

2.1 B. Sentence 3 limits the inference from the observed timing; sentence 4 proposes evidence. A overstates uncertainty as proof of no effect. C changes the outcome from loans to reading and is not established. D turns a reported closure into a recommendation. The author accepts the rise in loans while questioning its explanation.

Exercise 3.1

3.1 For the same passage, select every supported statement: A. Loans increased. B. Reminders caused none of the increase. C. Another change may help explain the increase. Then select the sentence that proposes a way to distinguish explanations.



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3.1 A and C; sentence 4. A is stated in sentence 1. C follows from the competing event in sentence 2 and caution in sentence 3. B is unsupported: failure to establish an exclusive cause does not establish zero contribution. Sentence 2 provides a competing observation; sentence 4 proposes a comparison. Judge each option independently and select the complete requested sentence.

Local review checklist: follow every response instruction; support the answer with the stated evidence; explain rejected alternatives or an opposing view; check scope, restrictions and clarity. For writing, this is a formative checklist, not an official rubric score.