Philosophy 4  Critical Thinking

Quiz 1: Argument vs. Explanation

Answers on final slide
1. Which of these is not a function of an argument?

- a. to provide a reason in support of a conclusion.
- b. to provide evidence that the conclusion is true.
- c. to answer the question: Why is that so?
- d. to answer the question: How do you know?
2. Which of these is **not** a function of an explanation?

- a. to provide a reason in support of a conclusion.
- b. to provide the cause of a fact represented by the conclusion.
- c. to provide a basis for believing the conclusion to be true.
- d. to answer the question: Why is that so?
3. Identify the following as an argument or an explanation.

Mr. Johnson fell off the ladder because he was drunk.

a. Argument
b. Explanation
4. Identify the following as an argument or an explanation.

I believe Mr. Johnson is drunk again. He is standing out in his yard buck naked.

a. Argument
b. Explanation
5. When the conclusion of a rationale is a value-judgment, the rationale

- a. is an opinion.
- b. is an argument.
- c. is an explanation.
- d. cannot be evaluated.
- e. none of the above.
Which of the following is the best reconstruction of the reasoning below?

The professor shouldn’t test us on hormesis. It’s not even relevant to the course.

a. 
   Argument
   Hormesis is not relevant to the course.
   because
   The professor hasn’t tested us on it..

b. 
   Explanation
   The professor should not test us on hormesis.
   because
   Hormesis is not relevant to the course.

c. 
   Argument
   The professor should not test us on hormesis.
   because
   Hormesis is not relevant to the course.
The dog is frightened. It’s shaking all over.

a. 

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Argument
The dog is frightened.
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because
The dog is shaking all over.
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b. 

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Explanation
The dog is shaking all over.
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because
The dog is frightened.
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c. 

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Argument
The dog is shaking all over.
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because
The dog is frightened.
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8. Which is the best reconstruction of the following reasoning?

The reason you shouldn’t shop at Wal-Mart is that they don’t pay their employees well.

a. Argument
   You shouldn't shop at Wal-Mart.
   because
   They don't pay their employees well.

b. Explanation
   You shouldn't shop at Wal-Mart.
   because
   They don't pay their employees well.

c. Explanation
   People shouldn't shop at Wal-Mart.
   because
   Wal-Mart doesn't pay its employees well.

d. Argument
   People shouldn't shop at Wal-Mart.
   because
   Wal-Mart doesn't pay its employees well.
9. Which is the best reconstruction of the following reasoning?

- Don’t text while you’re driving. When you’re texting you’re not watching the road and you’re going to kill someone.

  a. People shouldn't text while driving. because People who text while driving will kill someone. because People who text while driving aren't watching the road.

  b. People shouldn't text while driving. because People who text while driving aren't watching the road. because People who text while driving will kill someone.
10. What is the best description of the following reasoning?

- Obviously, people eat because they are hungry. But hunger is triggered simply by the sight of food so it’s not always a good indicator that the body needs food.

- a. This is an explanation why people eat food even though they don’t need it.
- b. This is an argument that people should not always eat just because they are hungry.
- c. This is an explanation why people eat together with an argument that hunger is not always a reliable indication that the body needs food.
- d. This is an argument that people eat when they are hungry together with an explanation why they should not always eat when they are hungry.
Answers

1. c
2. c
3. b
4. a
5. b
6. c
7. c
8. d
9. a
10. c