PHIL 100

I. **On Scantron, mark the letter for the best answer to each question.**

1. Everyone in this class is at least 2 years old. Everyone who can read is at least 2 years old. So everyone in this class can read.

   Assume the conclusion is true. This argument is
   a valid because there is no possible situation that would make the premises true but the conclusion false
   b valid because its conclusion is in fact true (actually, in fact, as the world really is)
   c both a and b
   d invalid because at least one false premise might be false (we can’t be sure)
   e invalid because there is a possible situation that would make at least one premise false but the conclusion true

2. A deductively sound argument ____ be deductively valid.
   a cannot        b must        c might or might not

3. An argument with a false premise cannot be deductively
   a valid        b sound        c both a and b
   d none of the above

4. Since everyone who has ever been elected President of the US won Ohio, whoever wins Ohio in the next Presidential election will win the election.

   This passage is most reasonably interpreted as an attempt to give
   a no argument, because it has just one sentence and no conclusion indicator
   b a deductively valid argument, because the premise says every past case had the same sort of outcome
   c an inductive strong argument, because it is always possible for a new case to be different from past cases, even if all past cases were alike

5. Every a inductively cogent argument is inductively strong  c both a and b
   b inductively strong argument is inductively cogent d none of the above

6. An argument with a false premise cannot be inductively
   a cogent        c both a and b
   b strong        d none of the above

7. It’s easy to see why illegal immigrants are less likely than other workers to report their employers for violating labor laws. For one thing, they are less likely to know their legal rights. Secondly, even if they know the law, they run the risk that reporting might bring them to the attention of immigration officials.

   The passage above contains
   a an argument whose conclusion is that illegal immigrants are less likely than other employee to report violations of labor laws
   b an explanation of why illegal immigrants are less likely than other employees to report violations of labor laws
   c neither of the above

Total 100

⇒ ⇒ OVER ⇒ ⇒
8. Several news reports on the McCain-Obama debate said (1) about 60% of viewers polled thought Obama did better, and (2) more Democrats than Republicans watched. Item (2)
a  is irrelevant to the news story  
b  gives us a reason to think that the reporters recognize their own biases, so we can trust that they don’t let them affect the story  
c  gives us a reason to think that the reporters were biased, so we should be cautious about accepting their claims about the poll results  
d  gives us a reason to think that the sample is skewed or biased, so an argument based on this sample would be inductively weak  
e  both c and d  

9. Lives will be saved if most residents leave the area before the hurricane makes landfall. Almost all the residents evacuated. Therefore lives were saved.  
The argument above is an example of which argument pattern or form?  
a  affirming the antecedent (modus ponens), which is a valid form  
b  denying the consequent (modus tollens), which is a valid form  
c  denying the consequent (modus tollens), which is an invalid form  
d  affirming the consequent), which is an invalid form  
e  none of the above  

10. Tina will pass if she studies. She is studying. Therefore she will pass.  
The argument above is an example of which argument pattern or form?  
Pick from choices in question # 9.  

11. If the lights work, the electricity must be on. The electricity is off. Therefore the lights won’t work.  
The argument above is an example of which argument pattern or form?  
Pick from choices in question # 9.  

12. Either New York City or Albany is the capital of New York State. New York City isn’t the capital. So Albany must be the capital.  
The argument above is an example of which argument pattern or form?  
  
a  disjunctive syllogism, an invalid form  
b  disjunctive syllogism, a valid form  
c  hypothetical syllogism, an invalid form  
d  hypothetical syllogism, a valid form  
e  none of the above  

13. The passage below contains  
a  no argument  
b  an argument for the conclusion that everyone who receives benefits from the public school system should help pay for it  
c  an argument for the conclusion that since everyone is better off living in a society where children are provided a public education, even people who have no children should have to pay the taxes that fund public schools  
d  an argument for the conclusion that even people who have no children should have to pay the taxes that fund public schools  

Everyone who benefits from the public school system should help pay for it. Since everyone is better off if children are provided a public education, even people with no children should have to pay the taxes that fund public schools.  

⇒ ⇒ OVER ⇒ ⇒
14. In the argument below, the main conclusion is (1) Many cookbook authors suggest starting potatoes in cold, rather than boiling water … (2) We [tried] preparing plain whole unpeeled potatoes, mashed potatoes, … and potato salad … both ways … to see if one method was indeed better than the other … (3) In the case of plain boiled whole potatoes, we did notice that the samples started in boiling water were softer on the exterior than on the interior. (4) These boiled potatoes weren’t terrible, but they weren’t as good as the ones started in cold water. In addition to slightly better texture in one test, (5) the potatoes started in cold water were ready a few minutes earlier. Yes, (6) the potatoes added to boiling water spent less time in the pot, but (7) we had to wait for the water to boil before we could cook the potatoes. The bottom line is that (8) starting the potatoes in cold water yields slightly better results in some applications and is always faster. ¹

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In the argument below, the main conclusion is  a 2  b 4  c 5  d 8
1. Many cookbook authors suggest starting potatoes in cold, rather than boiling water …
2. We [tried] preparing plain whole unpeeled potatoes, mashed potatoes, … and potato salad … both ways … to see if one method was indeed better than the other …
3. In the case of plain boiled whole potatoes, we did notice that the samples started in boiling water were softer on the exterior than on the interior. (4) These boiled potatoes weren’t terrible, but they weren’t as good as the ones started in cold water. In addition to slightly better texture in one test, (5) the potatoes started in cold water were ready a few minutes earlier. Yes, (6) the potatoes added to boiling water spent less time in the pot, but (7) we had to wait for the water to boil before we could cook the potatoes. The bottom line is that (8) starting the potatoes in cold water yields slightly better results in some applications and is always faster. ¹

Choose the BEST diagram for the argument above.

17. THIS IS THE summer of big tires on little pickup trucks.

Way up in the air behind the steering wheel sits a 98-pound girl. (1) The front of the hood commonly bears a handsomely painted name. [part of (1)] Usually this name is "Clyde."

People who understand pickup trucks tell me (2) these trucks with the tire bloat are not serious trucks.

(3) Serious pickup trucks must be big enough to transport 30 pine boards that are 8 feet long, a tractor … mower that has to go back to the shop for repairs, 200 feet of garden hose, 3 big evil-tempered dogs who don't like to feel crowded, 3 cases of beer and 6 bushel baskets of fresh-off-the-pitchfork stable manure to spread on the vegetable patch. All at the same time.

For this reason, the experts tell me, (4) serious pickup trucks favor very modest tires that keep them reasonably close to the ground. For one thing, (5) getting a tractor-style lawn mower on to a pickup truck is apparently never any fun, but if your tires elevate the truck bed to the height of your living-room ceiling, the job will require the help of six hod carriers supported by an ambulance crew on standby.

Moreover, (6) serious pickup trucks never have names. A serious pickup truck is called simply "The Truck." Never "Clyde," "Ernie," "Lou" or "Floyd."²
Choose the BEST diagram for the argument above.

18. Which fallacy occurs in this argument?
   a) appeal to emotion (such as fear)
   b) appeal to inappropriate authority
   c) appeal to the masses
   d) appeal to the ignorance
   e) false dilemma

   Of course it is reasonable to believe that we have been visited by extraterrestrial beings. After all, plenty of skeptics have tried, but none has been able to disprove that such visitations have occurred.

19. QUESTION & ANSWER OPTIONS FROM # 18
   When Presidential candidate Dukakis was Governor of Massachusetts, Willie Horton killed someone after being released on parole there. Dukakis should not get your vote.

20. QUESTION & ANSWER OPTIONS FROM # 18
   You are either with us or you are against us in the fight against terror.

21. QUESTION & ANSWER OPTIONS FROM # 18. (The fallacy on that list might not be the first one in the passage.)
   No one expects "evolution" to occur. If your pet cat gave birth to a litter of kittens, one of which had two tails, you wouldn't exclaim, "Aha! Here is the next stage of feline evolution!" One would assume that the two-tailed kitten was a freak of nature. No one would claim that a deviant animal was an example of evolution at work.

22. Another fallacy in # 21 is …
   a) composition
   b) division
   c) straw man
   d) begging the question
   e) ad hominem

23. Which of these fallacies occurs in the argument below?
   a) straw man
   b) ad hominem
   c) composition
   d) division
   e) begging the question

   The true agenda of the left is statism or control of the society by a small elite group. Through the constant hammering of emotion driven issues — education, the environment, child safety, gun control, nuclear war, etc. — they gradually affect the laws and policies that govern our society. All the while moving us closer to their goal of a nation of serfs working for the benefit of the powerful few that will control every aspect of a citizen's life.

24. From the list in #23, identify a fallacy that occurs in the following passage:
   Being a Canook, LexHam always cracks me up with his babble…probably thinks the U.S. is evil because “we” invaded Canada in the 1812 conflict...

⇒ ⇒ OVER ⇒ ⇒
II. **Diagram the following argument, using the numbers provided** (as in 16 and 17 above). Use a separate sheet of paper.

(1) The color of a defendant and victim's skin plays a crucial and unacceptable role in deciding who receives the death penalty in America. (2) People of color have accounted for a disproportionate 43% of total executions since 1976 and 55% of those currently awaiting execution. …

(3) The race of the victim also influences the outcome in potential death penalty cases. While (4) white victims account for approximately one-half of all murder victims, (5) 80% of all death penalties cases involve white victims. According to a study released by the US Department of Justice in 2000, (6) U.S. Attorneys recommended the death penalty in 36% of the cases with black defendants and non-black victims, (7) but only recommended the death penalty in 20% of the cases with black defendants and black victims.  

III. **Identify examples of ploys or tactics.** Below each ploy listed, write the words or describe the part of the ad where the ploy is used. If a ploy has no examples, just write 'none'. (You may also mark items on the ad.)

1. attempts to get you to identify with someone

2. appeals to emotion

3. appeals to authority

4. catchy slogans

5. weasel words

6. any other ploys or sneaky tactics?

⇒ ⇒ OVER ⇒ ⇒
IV. Answer 1-5 on a separate piece of paper. Explain your answers to # 4 & 5.

1. What claim about Pope John Paul II is in dispute, according to this news story?
2. What broader issue or debate is this disagreement related to?
3. What sources did Fisher use to write this news story?
4. Does the article appear to be balanced, or to be slanted or biased?
5. Does the article leave out important relevant information?

The New York Times

Pope’s Death Is Drawn Into Euthanasia Debate

By IAN FISHER

ROME, Sept. 27 — The debate over the Vatican’s opposition to euthanasia is being played out here over an especially public and delicate case: the death of Pope John Paul II.

Over the past week, the Vatican and an Italian doctor have sparred over the doctor’s accusation that John Paul should have been fitted earlier with a feeding tube. The doctor, Lina Pavanelli, an anesthesiologist, argued in a magazine article, then again this week in public, that the failure to do so before March 30, 2005, when the Vatican announced that John Paul had been fitted with a nasal feeding tube, deprived him of necessary care and thus violated church teachings on euthanasia. He died, at 84, on April 2 that year.

In an article in the magazine, Micromega, Dr. Pavanelli argued, “When the patient knowingly refuses a life-saving therapy, his action together with the remissive or omissive behavior of doctors, must be considered euthanasia, or more precisely, assisted suicide.”

She did not examine the pope or have access to his medical records.

So far, the Vatican has not presented a detailed response, but on Wednesday church officials quietly acknowledged that John Paul actually had the tube inserted several days before the March 30 announcement. His doctor, Renato Buzzonetti, told the newspaper La Repubblica last week that “his treatment was never interrupted,” though Dr. Pavanelli countered that John Paul should have been fitted with a more efficient abdominal feeding tube.

The pope suffered for many years from Parkinson’s disease, which can cause trouble with swallowing.

The accusation came as the Vatican restated its position on feeding tubes. Last week, a Vatican office described them as “an ordinary means of preserving life” that should be used even in cases of long-term deep coma where there is little hope for recovery. The Vatican does not approve of means it considers “disproportionate,” those involving a heavy burden and unlikely to save the patient.

That often means artificial respiration, but even that case is complicated. At a news conference on Wednesday, Dr. Pavanelli appeared by the side of the widow of Piergiorgio Welby, a writer who died last year after deciding to be removed from a ventilator that had kept him alive for nine years.

At the time, several church officials said that act amounted to euthanasia, and Mr. Welby was denied a church burial.10

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1. Cook’s Illustrated #88 (September & October 2007), p. 3