



**XLRI**  
Xavier Institute of Management  
For the greater good



KNOWVATION

...

# XAT

## CRITICAL REASONING

### EXPLANATION & PRACTICE MCQs



[instagram.com/knowvation/](https://www.instagram.com/knowvation/)



[knowvationindia@gmail.com](mailto:knowvationindia@gmail.com)



[fb.com/knowvationfb](https://www.facebook.com/knowvationfb)



[twitter.com/knowvation/](https://www.twitter.com/knowvation/)



[knowvation.in](https://www.knowvation.in)

# What is Critical Reasoning (CR)?

Critical reasoning tests an aspirant's ability to actively and skillfully grasp, analyze, question and evaluate ideas and beliefs given in a passage.

In XAT, CR is generally composed of a short paragraph followed by a question on the basis of the paragraph. For example, 'support the argument', 'find the assumption', 'find the inference', 'find the conclusion', etc.

| XAT Year | No. of CR Questions |
|----------|---------------------|
| 2020     | 6                   |
| 2019     | 5                   |
| 2018     | 5                   |
| 2017     | 3                   |

# TERMINOLOGIES!

A red circle with a white number "01" inside, and a small dark blue circle above it connected by a thin line.

01

**PREMISE**

Premise is a statement of fact or evidence explicitly stated.

A red circle with a white number "02" inside, and a small dark blue circle above it connected by a thin line.

02

**ASSUMPTION**

When a premise is not stated, or the author has taken it for granted, it becomes an assumption.

A red circle with a white number "03" inside, and a small dark blue circle above it connected by a thin line.

03

**CONCLUSION**

A conclusion is an opinion that the author wants to prove by using premises or assumptions.

A red circle with a white number "04" inside, and a small dark blue circle above it connected by a thin line.

04

**ARGUMENT**

Combination of Premise and Conclusion.

# An example

## Paragraph:

Dogs with long hair shed all over the house so you shouldn't get a long-haired dog. I have also heard that they have lots of fleas.

**Let's find the premises and conclusion.**

Premise 1: Long-haired dogs shed all over the house.

Premise 2: Long-haired dogs have a lot of fleas.

Conclusion: You should not get a long haired dog.





KNOWVATION



# Option Elimination

Beware of these TRAPS in CR MCQs!



[instagram.com/knowvation/](https://www.instagram.com/knowvation/)



[knowvationindia@gmail.com](mailto:knowvationindia@gmail.com)



[fb.com/knowvationfb](https://www.facebook.com/knowvationfb)



[twitter.com/knowvation/](https://twitter.com/knowvation/)



[knowvation.in](https://www.knowvation.in)

# Tips!

## **1. Option which diverts attention:**

Let's say you're required to strengthen the conclusion, but the option diverts the attention by strengthening the premise.

## **2. Incompatible comparisons:**

Always compare “apple to apple”. Example: More people died in road accidents than that due to COVID-19 in a year. Hence, COVID-19 is not dangerous.

## **3. Correlation & Causation:**

Two events may take place simultaneously but this does not mean that one event caused the other. Correlation does not mean causation.

## **4. Circular Reasoning:**

Example: US is the best place to live, because it's better than any other country.



# PRACTICE MCQs!

Try to answer yourself by pausing the video first!



**Q.1 Read the following paragraph and answer the question that follows:**

The average life expectancy for the Indian population as a whole is 73.9 years, but children born in Odisha will live an average of 77 years, and those born in Gujarat, 73 years. If a newlywed couple from Gujarat were to begin their family in Odisha, therefore, their children would be expected to live longer than would be the case if the family remained in Gujarat.

Which of the following, if true, would most seriously weaken the conclusion drawn in the passage?

- A. Insurance company statisticians do not believe that moving to Odisha will significantly lengthen the average Gujarati's life.
- B. The CM of Gujarat has falsely alleged that statistics for his state are inaccurate.
- C. The longevity ascribed to Odisha's current population is attributable mostly to genetically determined factors.
- D. Thirty percent population of all Gujarat can expect to live longer than 77 years.



**Q.2 Read the following paragraph and answer the question that follows:**

A program instituted in a particular state allows parents to prepay their children's future college tuition at current rates. The program then pays the tuition annually for the child at any of the state's public colleges in which the child enrolls. Parents should participate in the program as a means of decreasing the cost for their children's college education.

Which of the following, if true, is the most appropriate reason for parents NOT to participate in the program?

- A. The parents are unsure about which public college in the state the child will attend.
- B. The amount of money accumulated by putting the prepayment funds in an interest-bearing account today will be greater than the total cost of tuition for any of the public colleges when the child enrolls.
- C. The annual cost of tuition at the state's public colleges is expected to increase at a faster rate than the annual increase in the cost of living.
- D. Some of the state's public colleges are contemplating large increases in tuition next year.

**Q.3 Read the following paragraph and answer the question that follows:**

Global surface temperatures in 2019 are on track to be either the second or third warmest since records began in the mid-1800s, behind only 2016 and possibly 2017. On top of the long-term warming trend, temperatures in 2019 have been buoyed by a moderate El Niño event that is likely to persist through the rest of the year.

Which of the following statements can be BEST inferred based on the above paragraph? [XAT 2020]

- A. Global surface temperatures are increasing at a constant rate for three years.
- B. A moderate El Niño event increases temperature more than a weak El Niño event.
- C. El Niño event did not affect temperatures in 2016 and 2017.
- D. El Niño event causes global surface temperatures to rise in the long-term.
- E. The long-term trend of global surface temperatures is unrelated to El Niño.

**Q.4 Read the following paragraph and answer the question that follows:**

In Australia, jellyfish are most common between November and May. In Hawaii, jellyfish often show up on south-facing beaches eight days after a full moon. In the Mediterranean, blooms usually appear in the summer. Unfortunately for travelers, there is no worldwide database for recent jellyfish sightings, and tourism officials are sometimes reluctant to publicize jellyfish swarms out of fear that such news will scare off visitors. [XAT 2020]

Which of the following can be BEST concluded from the above paragraph?

- A. Celestial bodies have an influence on jellyfish sightings.
- B. Seasonal variations in the marine temperature impact jellyfish sightings.
- C. Economic interests influence security advisories.
- D. Tourism officials hide the truth about jellyfish sightings.
- E. Tourists visiting north-facing beaches in Hawaii do not spot jellyfish.

In a 2017 survey of 3,915 American workers, my colleagues and I found that workers report experiencing a sizable “voice gap” at work – that is, a gap between how much say or influence they feel they ought to have and how much they actually have – on topics such as wages, working conditions, fair treatment, and input into how they do their work. And now a second study, I have just completed with a new team, finds that today’s workers want forms of voice and representation that go well beyond traditional unions.

Based on the above paragraph, which of the following options would you agree with the MOST? [XAT 2020]

- A. The first study shows the frustration of the American workers and the second study shows the inability of unions in addressing them.
- B. The first study highlights the existence of the problem and the second study highlights the need for new ways of solving it.
- C. The first study defines the concept and the second study uses the concept in a specific context.
- D. The first study shows the intensity of the problem and the second study shows limitations of the existing solutions.
- E. The first study focuses on the need for fair representation and the second study discusses forms of representation.

**Q.6 Read the following paragraph and answer the question that follows:**

If we can send a human to the Moon, why can't we build sustainable cities? Defeat cancer? Tackle climate change? So, go the rallying cries inspired by one of humanity's greatest achievements, the US effort that put Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin on the Moon on 20 July 1969.

Which of the following statements, if true, BEST communicates the intent of the paragraph? [XAT 2020]

- A. America's moonshot was more about race to the moon and less about solving problems.
- B. America's moonshot initiative was mainly a response to USSR's competing initiative.
- C. The complexity of developing sustainable cities and curing cancer is far more than sending a human to the moon.
- D. The reason we celebrate 1969 moonshot is precisely because nothing significant has been done in that domain since then.
- E. Moonshot has a definitive ownership, whereas creating sustainable cities and curing cancer are public-good problems.

# Thanks a lot for watching!



Like



Share



Subscribe



[instagram.com/knowvation/](https://www.instagram.com/knowvation/)



[knowvationindia@gmail.com](mailto:knowvationindia@gmail.com)



[fb.com/knowvation](https://www.facebook.com/knowvation)



[twitter.com/knowvation/](https://www.twitter.com/knowvation/)



[knowvation.in](https://www.knowvation.in)