CRITICAL REASONING

Charta · GMAT Verbal Reasoning

REVISION NOTES

Weaken | **Strengthen** | **Explain** | **Evaluate** | **Assumption** | **Boldface**

Reinforce the conclusion • Justify the contrast • Identify the facts and the conclusion

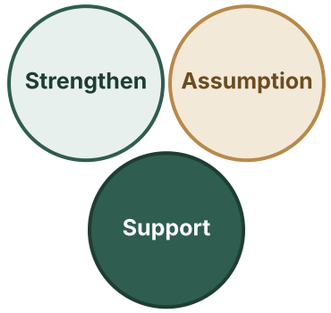
IDENTIFY THE ARGUMENT: FACTS, CONCLUSION & REASONS

Fact: There are black clouds.	Fact: Some students are absent today.	Fact: Sales have tripled.
Conclusion: So, I think it will rain.	Reason: They are absent because of rain.	Fact: Profits have stayed as low as before.
(Strengthen, Weaken, Assumption, Evaluate, Boldface)	(Strengthen, Weaken, Assumption, Evaluate)	(Flaw, Explain, Boldface)

STRENGTHEN & WEAKEN

STRENGTHEN + ASSUMPTION → SUPPORT

Prove that the given conclusion or reason is valid (without disputing the facts).



Unstated: bridges the gap between the facts and the conclusion, and supports the conclusion.

Reverse the assumption → the conclusion breaks.

Support makes the conclusion more valid and supports the conclusion.

EXPLAIN

There are two contrasting facts. Justify the contrast, or the reason behind the second event.
Look for contrast keywords (but, except, nevertheless, however, etc.).

Sales have doubled.

Profit has stayed almost as low as before.

Major discount: an almost 80% discount could be the reason sales increased but profit did not.

WEAKEN

FACTS	FACTS
Conclusion	Reason
↓	↓
Reverse the conclusion (extra information).	X → Y
	X ↛ Y | Z → Y | Y → X

PLAN QUESTION

Understand the GOAL before reading the options.

Good plan	Will achieve the GOAL.
Bad plan	Will not achieve the GOAL. There will be obstacles in the plan.

EVALUATE

Options are in the form of questions, and we must question only the conclusion. The correct option will both strengthen and weaken the conclusion.

TRAPS

Never choose an option that questions the facts.	Never choose an option whose answer is already given.

BOLDFACE QUESTIONS

Read the argument

Conclusion		Position / stance
Support / Against		
Not a conclusion	Reason	Consideration / explanation / premise
	Opinion	Claim / judgement / prediction
	Fact	Finding / evidence / information

TRAPS

Use traps as a tiebreaker, and NEVER as shortcuts.

- Be cautious of words like: some, certain, not all, before, prior to, after, except, apart from, and hypothetical language.
- Differentiate between a set and a subset.
- Other factors.
- Tenses.
- Incorrect or unnecessary comparisons.
- Suggestions (should).
- Avoid harsh language, and look for mild language (may, can), which gives you room to manoeuvre.

GOLDEN TIPS

- Identify the conclusion first.
- Separate facts from opinions.
- Test the link between the facts and the conclusion.
- Eliminate options that add unsupported assumptions.

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