

Sample Test Material for:
Analyzing and Evaluating Information

Test material will be presented in a multiple-choice question format.

There are 15 questions in this subject area.

Test Task: The questions in this subject area test your ability to analyze, interpret, and draw reasonable conclusions from information presented in text, data, images or symbols. You must analyze and/or evaluate the information provided and then either answer questions based on the results of your analysis and/or evaluation, and/or use logic to determine the validity of the statements as they relate to the information provided.

SAMPLE QUESTION 1:

Instructions: Base your answer to the next question on the following *Excerpt from an annual evaluation of the Belmont Mental Health Outreach Program*, a fictitious State funded program.

Excerpt from evaluation of the Belmont Mental Health Outreach Program

The Belmont Mental Health Outreach Program serves residents of the city of Belmont who need help obtaining mental health services. The purpose of the program is to assist individuals who might not know which services are available, how to obtain services, or how to successfully utilize services. To evaluate the success of the Outreach Program, staff surveyed some of the program's clients, using a questionnaire containing 20 questions. The questionnaire was given to all clients who came to the Outreach Program's main office reception area during the week of December 10th, from 8:00 a.m. until 12 Noon. Ninety percent of those clients completed the questionnaire. In response to the two questions regarding program satisfaction, 71% of the survey participants indicated that they were "satisfied" or "very satisfied."

Given the information provided above, which one of the following descriptions provides the best assessment of the survey?

- A. Ninety percent (90%) of the people surveyed completed the questionnaire, which would lead to high confidence in the results.
- B. The survey shows that the majority of the outreach program's clients are satisfied with its service.
- C. The survey needs more questions to provide an accurate measure of the program's success.
- D. The results of this survey may not represent the opinions of the majority of the program's clients.

The correct answer to the sample question 1 is Choice D.

Solution:

To answer this question correctly, you must recognize that there may be differences between the clients who completed the questionnaire and the rest of the program's clients. Not only was the questionnaire given only to the clients who visited the office in December, but it was given only to the clients who visited the office during the morning hours of a single week. Giving the questionnaire only to the clients who are able or willing to visit the office during the morning could easily exclude clients who are employed or have challenges that make it difficult to leave home in the morning. In a similar vein, limiting the collection of data to one week in December also has the potential of excluding many clients. Because of this limitation, both choice A and choice B are incorrect. There is not enough information to support choice C.

SAMPLE QUESTION 2:

A program was created to educate citizens on the dangers of lead paint in older residential buildings. One of the program goals was to provide participants with information on how to safely contain or remove lead paint from their homes. If the program obtains funding from the Special Programs Fund for 2011, it will be able to continue for another year. If the program is terminated, program staff will be reassigned. The program currently has fifteen staff members, including the Director.

From the information given above, which one of the following can validly be concluded?

- A. If the program is unable to continue for another year, the program did not obtain funding from the Special Programs Fund for 2011.
- B. If the program will be able to continue for another year, the program obtained funding from the Special Programs Fund for 2011.
- C. If program staff are reassigned, the program was not terminated.
- D. If program staff are not reassigned, the program was terminated.

The correct answer to this sample question is Choice A.

Solution:

To answer this question correctly, you must recognize that the statement *“If the program obtains funding from the Special Programs Fund for 2011, it will be able to continue for another year.”* has several logical implications. One implication is that obtaining funding from the Special Program Fund for 2011 inevitably leads to the program being able to continue for another year. There may be many ways in which the program can be continued for another year. However, if the program cannot continue for another year, then funding from the Special Programs Fund was not obtained. Therefore, choice A is correct.

Choice B is incorrect because there may be several ways of ensuring that the program continues for another year. Choices C and D are direct contradictions of the statement *“If the program is terminated, program staff will be reassigned.”* Therefore, choices C and D must be false.