

Statement & Assumptions

INTRODUCTION

Assumptions are essential part of analytical reasoning. This is the reason why in various competitive examinations, examinees are asked to identify assumptions. In this chapter, we will see how to identify assumptions. Before we go ahead, we must have a look at a common format of the problem as it will give you a clear idea of the questions to be asked in the examination.

PROBLEM FORMAT (SAMPLE PROBLEM)

Directions: In every question given below a statement (or a passage) is followed by two assumptions number I & II. An assumption is something supposed or taken for granted. You have to consider the statement and the following assumptions and then decide which of the assumptions is implicit in the statement.

Mark answer:

- (a) If only assumption I is implicit.
- (b) If only assumption II is implicit.
- (c) If either assumption I or assumption II is implicit.
- (d) If neither of the assumption is implicit
- (e) If both the assumptions are implicit.

Statement: "A" television – the largest selling name with the largest range" – an advertisement.

Assumptions:

- I. There is a demand for televisions in the market.
- II. 'A' television is the only one with wide variations.

The given statement in the problem format is an advertisement. This is the one form of statement. But the statement may be in different forms like it can be in the form of a passage; in the form of a single line; in the form of a notice; in the form of an appeal or in any other different forms.

Note that a single statement can have more than 2 assumptions in a single problem.

WHAT DOES AN ASSUMPTION MEAN?

Assumption is the hidden part of an argument. It does mean that an assumption is something which is assumed, supposed and taken for granted. In fact, when a person says something, he does not put everything into words and leaves some part unsaid as why does he ? so?

He does so because he takes this unsaid part for granted. In other words he thinks this unsaid part will be understood without saying and hence there is no need to put this (unsaid

part) into words. It does mean this unsaid part is hidden in the given statement and this hidden part is called assumption. Let us understand it in another way. Just remember your childhood days when you used to solve the given arithmetic problem without leaving any single step. But what you do today? Today your approach is totally different. Today you leave easier steps as you assume that the person who see your solution, is very much aware of these elementary operations. Therefore, this is an example of assumption.

To get the concept of assumption more clearly just suppose a thrilling one day international cricket match is going on between India and Australia. The Australian team has scored 300 runs but while chasing the score India has made 280 runs in 48 overs and now, the situation is India has to score 21 runs to win the match in remaining two overs. As Yuvraj Singh is batting, you tell your friend - "No need to worry as Yuvraj is a big hitter. India will definitely win the match". What do you find in this statement? In fact this statement has two parts:-

- (i) No need to worry as Yuvraj is a big hitter.
- (ii) India will win the match.

Now, this is the time to think over these two parts. How do you relate them? Obviously, by assuming that a big hitter may score 21 runs in the remaining two overs. Therefore, this is another example of assumption. The above statement can be written in three parts as follows:

- (i) No need to worry as Yuvraj is a big hitter.
- (ii) A big hitter may score 21 runs in 2 overs (Hidden part/ Assumption)
- (iii) So, India will win the match.

Let's get more ideas about assumption with some simple examples given below:

Example 1.

Statement: Of all the mobile sets manufactured in India 'M' brand has the largest sale.

Assumption: The sale of all the mobile sets manufactured in India is known.

Comment: The given assumption is valid. Here the statement makes a claim that of all the mobile sets manufactured in India, 'M' brand has the largest sale. In fact, without knowing sale figures may be rough data of all mobile brands manufactured in India, no such claim about M brand could be made. Hence, it must have been implicitly assumed in the given statement that sale figure of all brands is known.

Example 2.

Statement: Virat is in great form and therefore, India is going to beat New Zealand in upcoming test series.

Assumption:

- I. Virat will give a good performance in upcoming series against New Zealand.
- II. Virat will score a triple century in the upcoming series against New Zealand.

Comment: Assumption I is valid as the statement says that Virat is in great form and therefore, India is going to beat New Zealand in the upcoming test series. It does mean that it is assumed in the statement that Virat will perform well in the upcoming test series against New Zealand and on the basis of that good performance India will beat New Zealand. But II is invalid because if Virat is in great form, that does not mean he will surely hit a triple century. He may or may not do so. Hence, assumption II is not hidden in the statement.

Example 3.

Statement: The next meeting of the governing body of the institute X will be held after one year.

Assumption: Institute X will remain in function after one year.

Comment: The given assumption is valid as we know that the common practice is to hold meetings of only those bodies which are functional. Hence, it does mean that the announcer must be assuming that the society will remain functional after one year.

Example 4.

Statement: The student is too clever to fail in the examination.

Assumption: Very clever students do not fail in the examination.

Comment: This is a valid assumption. As per the given statement the student will not fail (This is an effect) as he / she is very clever (This is a cause). Clearly, it has been assumed in the statement that very clever students do not fail.

HOW DOES A SINGLE WORD OR PHRASE MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

A. Definitive Words Cases

Just consider the words like 'all', 'only', 'best', 'strongest', 'certainly', 'definitely', etc. These are some words that put a greater degree of emphasis or more weight on the sentence than some others. In fact, these words impart a kind of exclusiveness to the sentence and thereby reduce the scope / range of the sentence. In fact, some kind of certainty is associated with all these words. Let us consider the following examples:

Example 5.

Statement: The crisis of onion has worsened and the government should make every effort to boost import of onion.

Assumption:

- (i) Import is the best solution to avert the onion crisis.
- (ii) Import is a reasonably good solution to the onion crisis.
- (iii) Import is the only solution to overcome the onion crisis.

(iv) The onion crisis will definitely be averted by boosting import of onion.

(v) The onion crisis will probably be averted by boosting import of onion.

Comment: In the above mentioned example, the assumption (ii) and (v) are valid. But (i), (iii) and (iv) are not valid. The reason is that there is use of definitive words (best, only and definitely) in case of (i), (iii) and (iv). The given statement mentions a fact that crisis of onion has worsened and then makes a suggestion that imports of onion should be boosted. In fact the statement assumes that import should help to overcome onion crisis or that import is a good/ reasonably good solution to the onion crisis. But, there is no hint that import is the only solution/ best solution/a definitely effective solution.

Therefore, the example given above illustrates how a definitive word may give a different 'tone' to a sentence.

B. Cases of Conjunctions

The words like 'because', 'therefore', 'in spite of', 'despite', 'so', 'after', 'even', 'although' 'as', 'as a result of' are some significant conjunctions. When a statement has two clauses and the clauses are connected by a conjunction, then the nature of conjunction helps in detecting the assumption that the author suggests in his statement. Suppose 'x' is one clause of a sentence that mention an event (or fact/suggestion) and 'y' is the another clause of the same sentence which mentions another event (or fact/suggestion), then depending upon the conjunction, we can conclude the following assumption.

- (i) **x because/ as a result of y**
 ⇒ It is assumed that 'y' leads to x.

Example 6.

Statement: You will find improvement in your English after taking classes in institute M.

Valid Assumption: Institute M may help in improving English.

- (ii) **x therefore/hence y**
 ⇒ It is assumed that 'x' leads to 'y'.

Example 7.

Statement: Sachin Tendulkar has become the 1st man to score 50th test century, therefore all Indians must be feeling very proud on his achievement.

Valid Assumption: An achievement by a fellow countryman makes other citizens proud.

- (iii) **x even after/ despite/in spite of y**
 ⇒ It is assumed that usually x does not occurs when y occurs.

Example 8.

Statement: There was a theft in the city mall last night inspite of the maximum security arrangement made by the police.

Valid Assumption: Maximum security arrangement is usually sufficient to prevent theft.

- (iv) **Not 'x' even after/ in spite of/ despite 'y'**
 ⇒ It is assumed that usually x occurs when y does.

EXERCISE

DIRECTIONS (Qs. 1-5) : In each questions bellow is given a statement followed by three assumptions (A), (B) and (C). An assumption is something supposed or taken for granted. You have to consider the statement and the following assumptions and decide which of the assumptions is implicit in the statement.

1. **Statement :** Police authority cordoned of the entire locality for the entire day and stopped vehicular movement for the visit of a top functionary of the government in view the threat perception and advised all the residents in the area to limit their movement outside their dwellings.
Which of the following assumption(s) is /are implicit in the above statement ?

- (A) Police personnel may not be able to control the vehicular movement in the locality and may seek help from the armed forces.
(B) People living in the locality may move out of their houses for the day to avoid inconvenient.
(C) The Government functionary may request the police authority to lift the ban on movement of residents of the locality outside their dwellings.
(a) None is implicit (b) Only (A) is implicit
(c) Only (B) is implicit (d) Only (C) is implicit
(e) Only (B) and (C) are implicit

2. **Statement :** The apex body controlling universities in the country has decided to revise the syllabus of all the technical courses to make them focused towards the present needs of the industry thereby making the technical graduates more employable than they are at present.

- Which of the following assumption(s) is /are implicit in the above statement ?
(A) Technical colleges affiliated to different universities may not welcome the apex body's decision and may continue with the same syllabus as at present.
(B) The industry may welcome the decision of the apex body and scale up their hiring from these colleges.
(C) The Government may not allow the apex body to implement its decision in all the colleges as it may lead to chaos.
(a) None is implicit (b) Only (A) is implicit
(c) Only (B) is implicit (d) Only (C) is implicit
(e) Only (A) and (B) are implicit

3. **Statement :** Government has urged all the citizens to use electronic media for carrying out their daily activities, whenever possible instead of using paper as the manufacture of paper requires the cutting down of a large number of trees causing severe damage to the ecosystem.

- Which of the following assumption(s) is /are implicit in the above statement ?
(A) Most people may be capable of using electronic media to carry out various routines.
(B) Most people may have access to electronic media for carrying out their daily routine activities.

- (C) People at large may reject the Governments appeal and continue using paper as before.
(a) Only (A) is implicit
(b) Only (B) is implicit
(c) Only (A) and (B) are implicit
(d) Only (C) is implicit
(e) None of these

4. **Statement :** Government has decided to auction construction of highways to private entities in several blocks across the country on build–operate–transfer basis.
Which of the following assumption(s) is /are implicit in the above statement ?

- (A) An adequate number of private entities may not respond to the Government's auctions notification.
(B) Many private entities in the country are capable of constructing highways within reasonable time.
(C) The Government's proposal of build–operate–transfer may financially benefit the private entities.
(a) Only (A) and (B) are implicit
(b) Only (B) and (C) are implicit
(c) Only (B) is implicit
(d) Only (A) and (C) are implicit
(e) None of these

5. **Statement :** The airlines have requested all their bona fide passengers to check the status of flight operations before leaving their homes as heavy fog is causing immense problems to normal flight operations.

- Which of the following assumption(s) is /are implicit in the above statement ?
(A) The majority of the air passengers may check the flight status before starting their journey to the airport.
(B) The Government may take serious objection to the notice issued by the airline company.
(C) Majority of the passengers may cancel their tickets and postpone their journey till the situation becomes normal.
(a) None is implicit (b) Only (A) is implicit
(c) Only (B) is implicit (d) Only (C) is implicit
(e) Only (A) and (C) are implicit

DIRECTIONS (Qs. 6-10): In each question below is given a statement followed by two assumptions numbered I and II. An assumption is something supposed or taken for granted. You have to consider the statement and the following assumptions and decide which of the assumptions is implicit in the statement.

Give answer (a) if only Assumption I is implicit.

Give answer (b) if only Assumption II is implicit.

Give answer (c) if either I or II is implicit.

Give answer (d) if neither I nor II is implicit.

Give answer (e) if both I and II are implicit.

6. **Statement :** A nationalised bank issued an advertisement in the national dailies asking the eligible candidates for applying for 100 posts of chartered accountants.

DIRECTIONS (Qs. 16-20): In each question below is given a statement followed by two assumptions numbered I and II. An assumption is something supposed or taken for granted. You have to consider the statement and the following assumption and decide which of the assumptions is implicit in the statement.

- (A) if only assumption I is implicit.
(B) if only assumption II is implicit.
(C) if either assumption I or assumption II is implicit.
(D) if neither assumption I nor assumption II implicit.
(E) if both assumptions I and II are implicit.
16. **Statement:** If parking space is not available in office, park your vehicles in the mall and walk to the office.
Assumptions:
I. The mall is at a walk able distance from the office.
II. The office does not allow visitors' vehicles in its premises.
17. **Statement:** Farmers must immediately switch over to organic fertilizers from chemical fertilizers for better yield.
Assumptions:
I. All the farmers use only chemical fertilizers.
II. Organic fertilizers are readily available to the farmers.
18. **Statement:** An advertisement by bank X 'Our interest rates for education loans are lower than any other bank'.
Assumptions:
I. Some other banks also provide education loans.
II. Interest rates charged on education loans are different for different banks.
19. **Statement:** For any kind of problem with your mobile phone, contact our help desk immediately.
Assumptions:
I. Help desk has a solution to all kinds of problems related to mobile phones or will guide accordingly.
II. Unless the problem is reported immediately, it cannot be solved.
20. **Statement:** Use our medicine to fight the problem of obesity.
Assumptions:
I. Other slimming medicines available in the market do not reduce weight.
II. Obesity cannot be controlled without

DIRECTIONS (21-30): A statement followed by four assumptions numbered I, II and III are given. An assumption is something supposed or taken for granted. You have to consider the statement and the following assumptions and decide which of the assumptions is implicit in the statement, then decide which of the answers (a), (b), (c) or (d) is correct.

21. **Statement:** "Several labour and industrial courts in this state have no proper premises. Vacancies of judges and stenographers are kept pending". - A statement of a retired judge of state X.
Assumptions:
I. Adequate number of staff and judges helps in the smooth functioning of the industrial and labour courts.
II. The state is not bothered about the condition of the labour and industrial courts.

III. Physical facilities of an office help in increasing efficiency of its employees.

- (a) I and III are implicit (b) I and II is implicit
(c) II and III are implicit (d) All are implicit
(e) None of these
22. **Statement:** "Performing complex mental tasks while driving is dangerous" - A psychologist.
Assumptions:
I. Thinking too much reduces the ability to spot potential problems and react to them safely.
II. Hands free phone conversations are as safe - or as risky - as talking to a passenger, depending upon the demands of conversation.
III. Insecurity of humans is a man - made problem.
(a) I and II (b) II and III
(c) I and III (d) All of these
(e) None of these
23. **Statement:** "Z-TV, the only TV which gives the viewers a chance to watch two programmes simultaneously" - An advertisement.
Assumptions:
I. Sale of Z-TV will increase because of the advertisement.
II. Some people may be influenced by the advertisement and buy Z-TV.
III. The sale of Z-TV may be on the downward trend.
(a) Only I is implicit (b) All are implicit
(c) I and II are implicit (d) II and III are implicit
(e) None of the above
24. **Statement:** Use 'X' brand shoes. These are durable and available in all sizes. An advertisement in the newspaper A.
Assumptions:
I. Normally people like durable shoes.
II. Very few people read advertisement in a newspaper.
III. Very few people read the newspaper A.
(a) Only I is implicit
(b) I and II are implicit
(c) I and either II or III are implicit
(d) All are implicit
(e) None of the above
25. **Statement:** "Why are only high profile people considered to be adventurous? The villagers in India, who have no buses, walk barefoot for miles on dusty, untarred roads Isn't that more adventurous than rafting or gliding?" - View of a person.
Assumptions:
I. It is a Herculean task to walk barefoot for miles on dusty untarred roads.
II. Rafting and gliding are considered adventurous by the people.
III. Walking barefoot for miles on dusty untarred roads is not considered adventurous by the people.
(a) I and II (b) II and III
(c) I and III (d) All of these
(e) None of these

Hints & Solutions

1. (a) None of the Assumptions (A), (B) and (C) is implicit in the statement. If police authority has cordoned off the entire locality, it implies that police will ably control the vehicular movement in the locality. It is assumed that any advice given to the people will be followed.
2. (c) Only Assumption (B) is implicit in the statement. The apex body controlling universities has taken the decision assuming that technical colleges will honour it.
3. (c) Only Assumption (A) and (B) are implicit in the statement. Government urged all the citizens to use electronic media assuming that most people are capable of using electronic media.
4. (c) Only Assumption (B) is implicit in the statement. If the Government has decided to auction construction of highways to private entities, it may be assumed that many private entities in the country are capable of constructing highways within reasonable time.
5. (b) Only Assumption (A) is implicit in the statement. Any appeal/request is issued assuming that some people will pay heed to it.
6. (e) Both the assumptions are implicit because daily newspapers provide instant reach. Again 100 vacancies of Chartered Accountants were announced assuming sufficient eligible candidates may join the nationalised bank."
7. (a) Only assumption I is implicit because repairing of roads is carried out so efficiently to leave potholes. Assumption II is not implicit because it is people's right to complain against any pothole.
8. (e) Both the assumption are implicit because main consideration for people is cost factor. People would prefer foreign destination at competitive prices. Advertisement provides sufficient information on this.
9. (b) Only assumption II is implicit because customers prefer to buy vegetables from retail vendors as there is a lot of innovation in retail sector.
10. (b) Only assumption II is implicit because college authority cannot admit all those standing in the queue.
11. (d) 12. (a) 13. (d) 14. (e) 15. (b)
16. (a) 17. (b) 18. (e) 19. (e) 20. (d)
21. (d) Statement is concerned about the inadequate number of staff and lack of physical facilities in the industrial and labour courts. When an office has good physical facilities then the efficiency of its employees is increased. So, all the three assumptions are implicit.
22. (e) Assumption I is implicit because thinking too much reduces the ability to spot potential problems and react to them safely. Assumptions II and III are not implicit because they are not correlated to the statement.
23. (d) From the statement it is clear that advertisement can influence people and some people will buy Z-T.V. It can be assumed that the sale of Z-T.V. may be on downward trend that why its owner advertise their new products. So, assumption II and III are implicit. Assumption I is not implicit because it cannot be said surely that the sale of Z-T.V. will increase.
24. (a) Assumption I is implicit because normally people like durable shoes and that why that advertisement was given. Advertisement was given in newspaper A, it means that many people read the newspaper A and people who read newspaper also read advertisements in it. So, assumptions II and III are not implicit.
25. (d) From the tone of the statement, it is clear that walking barefoot for miles on dirty roads should be considered adventurous. The comparison is made between walking barefoot and rafting grinding. So, all the three assumptions are implicit.