

**Phil 170/115 practice  
supplement:  
First Exam**

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# For extra practice

- For practice with identifying arguments, see Forallx, pp. 5-6
- For practice detecting Valid arguments, see Forallx, pp. 10-11
- For practice with the valid forms, see [socrative.com](http://socrative.com).  
Room name: PHILOSOPHIZING
- Textbook: <http://forallx.openlogicproject.org/forallxyyc.pdf>
- For paragraph practice, see below...

sentences is potentially infinite, the form thus represents infinitely many different arguments, all having the same structure. Studying the form itself, rather than the specific arguments it represents, allows one to make important generalizations which apply to all these arguments.

*Informal logic* is the study of particular arguments in natural language and the contexts in which they occur. Whereas formal logic emphasizes generality and theory, informal logic concentrates on practical argument analysis. The two approaches are not opposed, but rather complement one another. In this book, the approach of Chapters 1, 2, 7, and 8 is predominantly informal. Chapters 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, and 10 exemplify a predominantly formal point of view.

## Supplementary Problems

I Some of the following are arguments; some are not. For those which are, circle all inference indicators, bracket and number statements, add implicit premises or conclusions where necessary, and diagram the argument.

- (1) You should do well, since you have talent and you are a hard worker.
- (2) She promised to marry him, and so that's just what she should do. So if she backs out, she's definitely in the wrong.
- (3) We need more morphine. We've got 32 casualties and only 12 doses of morphine left.
- (4) I can't help you if I don't know what's wrong—and I just don't know what's wrong.
- (5) If wishes were horses, then beggars would ride.
- (6) If there had been a speed trap back there, it would have shown up on this radar detector, but none did.

- (7) The earth is approximately 93 million miles from the sun. The moon is about 250,000 miles from the earth. Therefore, the moon is about 250,000 miles closer to the sun than the earth is.
- (8) She bolted from the room and then suddenly we heard a terrifying scream.
- (9) I followed the recipe on the box, but the dessert tasted awful. Some of the ingredients must have been contaminated.
- (10) Hitler rose to power because the Allies had crushed the German economy after World War I. Therefore if the Allies had helped to rebuild the German economy instead of crushing it, they would never have had to deal with Hitler.
- (11) [The apostle Paul's] father was a Pharisee. . . . He [Paul] did not receive a classical education, for no Pharisee would have permitted such outright Hellenism in his son, and no man with Greek training would have written the bad Greek of the Epistles. (Will Durant, *The Story of Civilization*)
- (12) The contestants will be judged in accordance with four criteria: beauty, poise, intelligence, and artistic creativity. The winner will receive \$50,000 and a scholarship to attend the college of her choice.
- (13) Capital punishment is not a deterrent to crime. In those states which have abolished the death penalty, the rate of incidence for serious crimes is lower than in those which have retained it. Besides, capital punishment is a barbaric practice, one which has no place in any society which calls itself "civilized."
- (14) Even if he were mediocre, there are a lot of mediocre judges and people and lawyers. They are entitled to a little representation, aren't they, and a little chance? We can't have all Brandeises and Frankfurters and Cardozos and stuff like that there. (Senator Roman Hruska of Nebraska, defending President Richard Nixon's attempt to appoint G. Harrold Carswell to the Supreme Court in 1970)
- (15) Neither the butler nor the maid did it. That leaves the chauffeur or the cook. But the chauffeur was at the airport when the murder took place. The cook is the only one without an alibi for his whereabouts. Moreover, the heiress was poisoned. It's logical to conclude that the cook did it.
- (16) The series of integers (whole numbers) is infinite. If it weren't infinite, then there would be a last (or highest) integer. But by the laws of arithmetic, you can perform the operation of addition on any arbitrarily large number, call it  $n$ , to obtain  $n + 1$ . Since  $n + 1$  always exceeds  $n$ , there is no last (or highest) integer. Hence the series of integers is infinite.
- (17) The Richter scale measures the intensity of an earthquake.

- (17) The Richter scale measures the intensity of an earthquake in increments which correspond to powers of 10. A quake which registers 6.0 is 10 times more severe than one which measures 5.0; correspondingly, one which measures 7.0 releases 10 times more energy than a 6.0, or 100 times more than a 5.0. So a famous one such as the quake in San Francisco in 1906 (8.6) or Alaska in 1964 (8.3) is actually over a thousand times more devastating than a quake with a modest 5.0 reading on the scale.
- (18) Can it be that there simply is no evil? If so, why do we fear and guard against something which is not there? If our fear is unfounded, it is itself an evil, because it stabs and wrings our hearts for nothing. In fact, the evil is all the greater if we are afraid when there is nothing to fear. Therefore, either there is evil and we fear it, or the fear itself is evil. (St. Augustine, *Confessions*)
- (19) The square of any number  $n$  is evenly divisible by  $n$ . Hence the square of any even number is even, since by the principle just mentioned it must be divisible by an even number, and any number divisible by an even number is even.
- (20) The count is 3 and 2 on the hitter. A beautiful day for baseball here in Beantown. Capacity crowd of over 33,000 people in attendance. There's the pitch, the hitter swings and misses, strike three. That's the tenth strikeout Roger Clemens has notched in this game. He has the hitters off stride and is pitching masterfully. He should be a candidate for the Cy Young award.
- (21) Parents who were abused as children are themselves more often violent with their own children than parents who were not abused. This proves that being abused as a child leads to further abuse of the next generation. Therefore the only way to stop the cycle of child abuse is to provide treatment for abused children before they themselves become parents and perpetuate this sad and dangerous problem.

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