STATEMENT - ARGUMENTS

In this type of questions, a statement is given followed by two arguments. One argument supports the given statement by pointing out the positive results of the statement and the other argument is given against the statement by pointing out the negative features of it. A typical question of statement argument is given below.

Directions: The question given below is followed by two arguments numbered I and II. You have to decide which of the arguments is a 'strong' argument and which is a 'weak' argument.

Statement: Should there be a world government?

Arguments:
I. Yes, It will help in eliminating tensions among the nations.
II. No. Then only the developed countries will dominate in the government.

(a) Only I is strong
(b) Only II is strong
(c) either I or II is strong
(d) Neither I nor II is strong
(e) both I and II are strong

To answer this question, first of all we should determine whether an argument is strong or weak. For this, each argument should be subjected to the following tests.

1. If an argument is ambiguous, it is a weak argument. For example,

Statement: Should higher education be reserved for the deserving few?

Argument: Yes, It will minimise wastage in higher education.

2. If an argument is too simple, it is a weak argument. They are clearly related with the statement. But due to lack of proper argumentation, they are considered as weak arguments.

Statement: Should all the remote parts of a country be connected by road?

Argument: Yes, It must be done immediately.

This argument does not have any argumentative substance and so it is a weak argument.

3. If an argument simply supports or denies a given statement without giving a proper analysis, it is a weak argument.

Statement: Should election expenses to central and state legislatures be met by the government?

Argument: No, It is not good in any country.

4. Arguments which consists of a question thrown back without any substance and argument is a weak argument.

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This argument does not have any argumentative substance and so it is a weak argument.
This is a weak argument. Just because telephone services are operated in advanced western countries, it cannot be declared as pursuable.

7. If an argument has passed the above mentioned points, then we check the desirability of the argument. For this, first of all, we check whether the arguer is right in saying that the course of action will bring the given positive or negative consequence. Next, we check whether this positive or negative consequence is really beneficial or harmful.

Statement: Should non-vegetarian food be totally banned in our country?

Argument: Yes, it is expensive and therefore beyond the means of most people in our country.

Logically this argument is probable because non-vegetarian food is expensive and therefore it is beyond the means of most people in our country. But only for this reason, ban on non-vegetarian food is not desirable. So this argument is weak.

8. A statement and an argument are said to be properly related if the argument emphasises the main issue involved. Also it should be a balanced option. That is really beneficial or harmful. If they are properly related the argument is considered as a strong argument.

Statement: Should there be compulsory military training for all?

Argument: Yes, it will bring a sense of discipline in the people.

It is true that military training will bring a sense of discipline in the people. But compulsory military training is too significant an action to be taken simply for this reason.

Solved Examples:
1. Statement: Should luxury hotels be banned in India?
   
   Argument: I. Yes, they are places from where international criminals operate. 
   II. No. Affluent foreign tourists will have no place to stay.

   I is not strong because only by imposing a ban on luxury hotels, success of international criminals can not be put to an end. But argument II is strong.

2. Statement: Should private sector be permitted to operate telephone services?

   Argument: I. Yes, they are operated in advanced western countries. 
   II. No. It is risky to put them in private hands.

   Here both the arguments are weak. A policy cannot be followed in a developing country like India, merely on the reason that telephone services are operated in advanced western countries. It is not acceptable because permitting the private sector to operate telephone services may bring out greater efficiency. Hence both the arguments are weak.

PRACTICE TEST

Directions: Each question given below is followed by two arguments numbered I and II. You have to decide which of the argument is a strong argument and which is a weak argument.

Give answer (a) If only argument I is strong, (b) if only argument II is strong, (c) If either I or II is strong (d) if neither I nor II is strong and (e) if both I and II are strong.

1. Statement: Should one close relative of a retiring government employee be given a job in government in India?
   
   Arguments: I. Yes, where else will the relatives get a job like this? 
   II. No, it will close doors of government service to competent and needy youth.

2. Statement: Should purchase of gold by individuals be restricted in India to improve its foreign exchange positions?

   Arguments: I. Yes, interference on customer’s right and freedom is desirable. 
   II. No, business interest has to be guarded first.
3. **Statement**: Should teaching of 'Sanskrit' be made compulsory at school level in India?
   **Arguments**: 
   I. No, where are the trained teachers to teach this language?
   II. Yes, we should be proud of our ancient language/

4. **Statement**: Should all education be made free for girls and women of all ages of India?
   **Arguments**: 
   I. No, this will weaken our present social structures.
   II. Yes, this is the only way to bring back glory to Indian womenhood.

5. **Statement**: Should private colleges offering professional courses like Engineering, Medical, Management be banned in India?
   **Arguments**: 
   I. Yes, such courses should be run by Government Colleges only
   II. Yes, no other country allows private colleges to run professional courses.

6. **Statement**: Should Doordarshan be given autonomous status?
   **Arguments**: 
   I. Yes, It will help Doordarshan to have fair and impartial coverage of all important events.
   II. No, the coverage of events will be decided by a few who may not have healthy outlook.

7. **Statement**: Should adult education programme be given priority over compulsory education programmes?
   **Arguments**: 
   I. No, It will also help in success of compulsory education programme.
   II. Yes, it will help to eliminate the adult illiteracy.

8. **Statement**: Should India go in for computerisation in industry?
   **Arguments**: 
   I. No Computerisation demands a lot of money. We should not waste money on it.
   II. Yes, when advanced countries are introducing computers in various areas, how can India afford to lag behind?

9. **Statement**: Should new big industries be started in Bombay?
   **Arguments**: 
   I. Yes, It will create new job opportunities.
   II. No, It will further add to the pollution of the city.

10. **Statement**: Should higher education be completely stopped for some time?
    **Arguments**: 
    I. No, It will hamper the country's future progress.
    II. Yes, It will reduce the educated unemployment.

11. **Statement**: Should slum dweller be provided free houses in big cities and metropolises?
    **Arguments**: 
    I. No, most of the slum dwellers are poor and illiterate.
    II. Yes, providing food and shelter to every citizen is the responsibility of any welfare state.

12. **Statement**: Should Polythene Bags be banned in India?
    **Arguments**: 
    I. No, The polythene bags are very cheap and are very convenient.
    II. Yes, that is what many countries are doing.

13. **Statement**: Should military service for short duration be made compulsory to all eligible youth in India?
14. **Statement**: Should private sector be permitted to operate telephone services?

**Arguments**:
I. Yes. They are operated in advanced western countries.
II. No. It is risky to put them in private hands.

15. **Statement**: Should there be only one university throughout India?

**Arguments**:
I. Yes. This is the only way to bring about uniformity in the educational standards.
II. No. This is administratively impossible.

16. **Statement**: Should telecasting feature films be stopped?

**Arguments**:
I. Yes. Young children are misguided by the feature films.
II. No. This is the only way to educate the masses.

17. **Statement**: Should non-vegetarian food be totally banned in our country?

**Arguments**:
I. Yes. It is expensive and therefore it is beyond the means of most people in our country.
II. No. Nothing should be banned is a democratic country like ours.

18. **Statement**: Should workers be allowed to participate in the management of factories in India?

**Arguments**:
I. Yes. It is the present management theory.
II. No. Many workers are illiterate and so their contributions will not be of any value.

19. **Statement**: Should smoking be prohibited?

**Arguments**:
I. Yes. It is wrong to smoke away millions of money.
II. No. It will throw thousands of workers in the tobacco industry out of employment.

20. **Statement**: Should those who receive dowry, despite the law prohibiting it, be punished?

**Arguments**:
I. Yes. Those who violate the law, must be punished.
II. No. Dowry system is firmly rooted in the society since time immemorial.

21. **Statement**: Should selection tests be of the objective rather than of the descriptive type?

**Arguments**:
I. Yes. The assessment of answers to objective type questions is fair and impartial.
II. No. The descriptive type test is certainly a better tool than the objective type test.

22. **Statement**: Should state lotteries be stopped?

**Arguments**:
I. Yes. Government should not promote gambling habits.
II. No. Government will lose a large amount of revenue.

23. **Statement**: Should India have no military force at all?

**Arguments**:
I. No. Other countries in the world do not believe in non-violence.
II. Yes. Many Indians believe in non-violence.

24. **Statement**: Should personal tax be abolished in India?

**Arguments**:
I. Yes. It will motivate people to earn more.
II. No. Individuals must learn to share their wealth with other people.
25. **Statement**: Should articles of only deserving authors be allowed to be published?

**Arguments**:

I. Yes. It will save a lot of paper which is in short supply.
II. No. It is not possible to draw a line between the deserving and the undeserving.

26. **Statement**: Should taxes on colour television be further increased?

**Arguments**:

I. Yes. Colour television is a luxury item and only rich people buy them
II. No. Televisions are bought by the poor too.

27. **Statement**: Should loyalty be the only criterion for promotion in any organisation?

**Arguments**:

I. Yes. With out loyal men, no organisation can function.
II. No. It leads to hypocrisy and partiality.

28. **Statement**: Should the political parties be banned?

**Arguments**:

I. Yes. It is necessary to teach a lesson to the politicians.
II. No. It will lead to an end of democracy.

29. **Statement**: Should fashionable dresses be banned?

**Arguments**:

I. Yes. Fashions keep changing and hence consumption of cloth increases.
II. No. Fashionable clothes are a person's self expressions and therefore his/her fundamental right.

30. **Statement**: Should India manufacture atom bombs?

**Arguments**:

I. Yes. It is imperative to protect the sovereignty and integrity of the country.
II. No. This will create imbalance in the power of nations in this region.

31. **Statement**: Should election expenses to central and state legislatures be met by the Government?

**Arguments**:

I. Yes. It will put an end to political corruption.
II. No. It is not good in any country.

32. **Statement**: Should all news be controlled by Government in a democracy?

**Arguments**:

I. Yes. Variety of news only confuses people.
II. No. Controlled news loses credibility.

33. **Statement**: Should all the remote parts of a country be connected by road?

**Arguments**:

I. No. It will disturb peaceful simple life of the villagers.
II. Yes. It must be done immediately.

34. **Statement**: Should a total ban be put on trapping wild animals?

**Arguments**:

I. Yes. Trappers are making a lot of money.
II. No. Bans on hunting and trapping are not effective.

35. **Statement**: Should India encourage exports, when most things are insufficient for internal use itself.

**Arguments**:

I. Yes. We have to earn foreign exchange to pay for our imports.
II. No. Even selective encouragement would lead to shortages.

36. **Statement**: Should incom tax be evaded by people?

**Arguments**:

I. Yes. Taxes are excessively high.
II. No. It is anti-national to do so.
37. **Statement**: Should retirement age for the employees be reduced to 56 years?
   **Arguments**:
   I. Yes. It will provide employment opportunity to many unemployed.
   II. Yes. It will provide good output because average age of employee is reduced.

38. **Statement**: Should India sign comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)?
   **Arguments**:
   I. No. India will not be able to protect her border if it does so.
   II. Yes. This is the only way to reduce tension in the Asian sub-continent.

39. **Statement**: Should Hindi language be made compulsory at school level in all the states in India?
   **Arguments**:
   I. No. Students should not be forced to learn any language.
   II. Yes. It is the national language, so everybody must learn.

40. **Statement**: Should India adopt Presidential form of Government?
   **Arguments**:
   I. Yes. It is necessary to avoid political instability in the country.
   II. No. This will adversely affect our socio-cultural fabric.

41. **Statement**: Should convicted persons be banned to contest elections?
   **Arguments**:
   I. Yes. They tend to disrupt the normal business of the Government.
   II. No. Every citizen has the right to contest elections.

42. **Statement**: Should degree be delinked from job?
   **Arguments**:
   I. Yes, this will check over crowding in colleges.
   II. No, every job requires certain minimum qualifications.

43. **Statement**: Should gender test during pregnancy be banned?
   **Arguments**:
   I. Yes, this is a serious crime against humanity.
   II. No, the parents should have liberty to allow the birth of child of their choice.

44. **Statement**: Should number of holidays of government employees be reduced?
   **Arguments**:
   I. Yes. Our government employees are having maximum number of holidays among the other countries of world.
   II. Yes. It will result in increased productivity of government officers.

45. **Statement**: Should the organisation like the UN be abolished?
   **Arguments**:
   I. Yes, because the era of cold war is over and so there is no role of such organisations.
   II. No, in the absence of these organisations, there will be a world war.

46. **Statement**: Will the new pollution-free petrol result in clean air?
   **Arguments**:
   I. No. Since it is not compulsory to use the new petrol, most vehicle users are not doing so.
   II. Yes, Motor vehicles emission is responsible for 30% of air pollution.

47. **Statement**: Should coal engines be replaced by electric engines in trains?
   **Arguments**:
   I. Yes, coal engines causes a lot of pollution.
   II. No. India does not produce enough electricity
to fulfil even the domestic needs.

48. **Statement**: Do jails reform prisoners by converting their mind against crime?

**Arguments**:
I. Yes. They learn some work which would keep them to earn their bread and butter when they are out of prison.
II. No. They will come in contact with new and hard boiled criminals and learn new tricks of their old profession.

49. **Statement**: Is sunflower seed oil a good cooking medium for heart patients?

**Arguments**:
I. Yes. It does not increase cholesterol.
II. No. It lacks natural nourishment.

50. **Statement**: Should surnames revealing caste be banned in favour of forming a uniform society?

**Arguments**:
I. Yes. Such surnames are so funny.
II. No. Such surnames establish the identity of a person.

**Explanations**
1(b) Only argument II is strong. I is in the form of a question thrown back. So it is a weak argument.
2(d) None is strong. Both of them mention trivial aspects.
3(d) Argument I may or may not follow in actual practice as it depends on one's individual perception. Hence I is not strong. It is true that we should be proud of our ancient language. But only for this reason, it is not desirable to make sanskrit compulsory at school level.
4(d) Neither I nor II is strong. There is no possibility of weakening of our present social structure if we give education to girls and women to India. II is also weak because it is not the only way to bring back glory to Indian womanhood.
5(d) None is strong. I is too simple. It simply accepts the issues without giving any reason. Second is based upon example.
6(a) If Doordarshan is given autonomous status, it will be a step towards giving it independence for an impartial coverage. So I is strong. Autonomous status does not mean that the coverage will be decided by a few. So II is weak.
7(b) I is vague. The adult education programme needs to be given priority because it shall eliminate adult illiteracy and thus help in further spread of education.
8(d) None is strong. Investment of money in computers is not a waste. II is based upon examples.
9(e) Clearly, by starting big industries, new job opportunities will be created. So I is strong. But pollution is always a big problem with big industries. So II also holds.
10(a) I is an established fact that higher education promotes country's development. So I holds. II is weak because higher education is not the cause of unemployment.
11(b) I is not a proper reason not to provide slum dwellers with free houses. But II is a strong argument.

12(d) II is based upon example; hence it is a weak argument. I argues about the cheaper cost and convenience of polythene bags. The harmful effects associated with the use of polythene bags are more severe. So I is not acceptable.

13(a) Only argument I holds strong. Considering the changed scenario in the sub-continent more javans and officers should be inducted. Argument II does not make a major point.

14(d) None is strong. First is based on example. So it is weak. Second is also weak because in a developing country, a policy cannot be followed merely on the pretext that it is pursued in the western countries.

15(b) Only one university throughout India is not the only way to bring uniformity in educational standards. Because we can have many universities, all following the same curricular and policies under one board. So I is weak. II is strong because the administration will become impossible.

16(a) Only I is strong because it is an established fact. II is weak because it is not the only way to educate the masses.

17(d) I does not hold. A ban on people should not be enforced on people because it is their basic human rights to decide their diet. II is also weak because “nothing should be banned” is not an acceptable truth.

18(d) I does not provide a valid reason for the pursuance of the policy. II is not desirable because there are even some illiterate whose suggestions will be off some value.

19(d) There is no need to prohibit smoking only to save money. So I is weak. II is not desirable because a hazardous task should not be continued to provide employment.

20(a) I is strong because persons who violate the law need to be punished. Even if dowary system is deep-rooted, it is still illegal and needs to be ended.

21(a) I is strong. Judgement in subjective tests depends upon the individual who judges while that in objective tests is fair and impartial. So II is weak.

22(e) Both are strong. It is true that the government should promote gambling habits which it does through its lotteries. It is also true that the government would lose a major source of revenue if lotteries were stopped.

23(d) To defend India against the threat of other military powers in the world, it needs to have military force. So both the arguments do not hold strong.

24(a) I looks probable because abolishing personal taxes will motivate people to earn more. But II is not desirable because the personal tax is not a way of sharing wealth with other people.

25(b) I is not strong. II is desirable because it is not possible to analyse the deserving and the undeserving.

26(d) Both the arguments are vague.

27(b) I is not a proper reason to make loyalty the only criterion for promotion. But II is strong.

28(b) I does not give a strong reason. But II is strong.

29(b) Imposing ban on fashionable dresses will be restriction on the personal choice and hence the right to freedom of an individual. So only II is desirable.

30(d) In I, it is not directly stated, how the sovereignty and integrity of the country is protected by manufacturing atom bombs. II is also not strong.

31(a) If election expenses are met by the government, then it will put an end to political corruption. But II is based on example. So only I holds.

32(b) I is vague because variety of news never confuses people and it helps people to
develop their own views. II is strong because controlled news is partial and so it loses credibility.

33(d) Connecting remote parts of a country by roads cannot disturb peaceful simple life of the village, it only helps the people there. II does not have any argumentative substance. So it is also weak.

34(d) Ban should be imposed not for the reason that trappers are making money, but for protecting our natural environment. II is also not strong because it does not give any strong argument against it.

35(e) Both are strong. I is desirable because the argument is true. II is also strong because in the statement, it is given that things are insufficient for internal use itself. So even selective encouragement would lead to shortages.

36(b) Tax rates are not excessively high because they are decided by our elected leaders. So I is not desirable. II is strong because the taxes are utilised only for the welfare of the people. So it is anti-national.

37(a) Clearly, if retirement age for the employee is reduced then it will create employment opportunity for many unemployed.

38(a) India will be in danger of invasion by neighbouring countries who possess atom bombs, long range missiles, it is signs CTBT. There is no tension in the Asian sub-continent due to CTBT. So I is strong and II is vague.

39(a) It is not practical to make Hindi language compulsory at school level in all states in India. Our country strives for unity in diversity. It is true that everybody should learn Hindi because it is the national language. But for that purpose, it is not desirable to make it compulsory at school level in all states in India therefore only argument I is strong.

40(b) Only II is desirable. The adoption of presidential form of political uncertainty. II is strong because it is not wise to take such a major decision without taking into account our socio-cultural milieu.

41(a) Only I holds. It is true that every citizen has the right to contest elections but at the same time there should be certain norms and minimum qualifications for the contestants.

42(b) II is strong. It is necessary to have some basic knowledge about the nature of job. we can adopt certain other measures to check over crowding in colleges such as selective admission.

43(a) Only I holds because gender test during pregnancy is a serious crime against humanity.

44(b) I is not strong because it is based on examples. II is strong as less number of holidays would mean more hours of work and hence increased in productivity.

45(b) The function of UN is not only to establish peace and harmony among the belligerent countries but also to develop friendly and cordial relations among the nations. Hence I is not strong. But II is desirable.

46(a) I is strong because new pollution free petrol has not been made compulsory for vehicles. II is weak because after using new petrol there will be less pollution, but it will not result in clear air.

47(e) I states that coal engines cause a lot of pollution and II states that India does not produce enough electricity to fulfil even the domestic needs. So both the arguments are strong and directly related to the statement.

48(e) Both arguments are strong. Though they contradict each other, but independently both of them hold.

49(a) I is strong because it clearly mentions how sunflower seed oil is good for heart patients. II is weak because it is not based on known facts.

50(d) Both arguments are simple.