**Logic Exercises 1: Argument Identification**

**For each of the following passages do the following:**

1. Underline all premise and conclusion indicators and mark them with ‘P’ for premise, and ‘C’ for conclusion.
2. Determine whether the passage contains an argument.
3. If it does contain an argument, then determine what the conclusion is, and whether the argument is inductive or deductive.
4. If the argument does not contain an argument, then determine if the passage is an explanation, illustration, description, report, or non-sense.

Passages:

1.

Either the cook or the butler committed the crime. The butler did not commit the crime. So, the cook committed the crime.

2.

Because light is refracted when passing through water, objects that are submerged in water appear bent.

3.

All even numbers are divisible by 2. For example, 4 is divisible by 2.

4.

“It is very likely that a republican will take office next election, since in the past four years we have seen a democrat lead this country to ruin.” Reported the Washington Post.

5.

Some vegetarians are nice people.

Some vegetarians are good people.

So, some nice people are good people.

6.

Since taxes are heavy, jobs are disappearing, and the cost of living is increasing for the middle class in California, it is likely that the middle class will shrink in size.

7.

Killing animals is morally wrong. Non-human meat comes from killing animals. So, it is morally wrong to eat meat.

8.

Either the mind is identical to the brain or it is not identical to the brain. If it is identical to the brain, then we should not be able to think of the mind as separate from the brain. However, we are able to think of the mind as separate from the brain. So, the mind must not be identical to the brain.

9.

Snakebites can kill because snakes release poisonous venom when they bite. The poison, if strong enough, can kill.

10.

Democrats support invading Syria. Republicans do not support invading Syria. So, it is likely that there is a specific reason why democrats fall on one side, and republicans fall on the other.

11.

Arguments generally have premise and conclusion indicators, but not always. Explanations generally have indicators also, but in the context of an explanation an indicator is severing a different function. It is important to pay attention to what the role of a passage is in determining whether an argument is present.

12.

String instruments produce sounds through the vibration of strings. Thus, by plucking the strings of a guitar one creates a vibration that is then amplified through the resonating areas of the body of the guitar.

13.

If it is wrong to lie, it is wrong to get your little brother to lie.

It is wrong to lie.

So, it is wrong to get your little brother to lie.

14.

It is highly likely that in the next decade both Europe and America will fall behind China and India in terms of economic progress. For the educational system in Asia and the growth in middle class jobs is on a fast paced increase.

15.

Everyone at least understands the idea of God. Some go on to deny that God exists even though they understand the idea of God. But this is impossible. To understand the idea of God is to understand God as a thing that is the greatest conceivable being. The greatest conceivable being must exist, since if it did not exist, another being more greater than it would be conceivable –but then it would not be the greatest conceivable being.

16.

Causation requires a necessary connection. Event A genuinely causes event B only if B must happen if A happens. However, when ever we see what we think to be an instance of causation, all that we see are two events that are spatially close, and such that one event follows the other event in time. Based on this information, how can we come to the conclusion that there are genuine causal relations? We never see them? So, it is likely that our belief that there are genuine causes is false.

17.

An action is morally obligated if it is the action that increases happiness for all individuals involved relative to the class of available actions. Torturing a terrorist in order to get information that will save 100,000 innocent people will make 1 person miserable while saving 100,000. So, we are morally obligated to torture terrorists when the information we would get would save a large number of people.

18.

A person knows something only if they can rule out all doubts. For example, I know that there is a cat in the other room only if I can rule out all doubts, such as that I am dreaming. However, we can never rule out all doubts. In every situation there is always some doubts that we cannot rule out. So, it must be that we do not know anything.

19.

The last 14 people that entered this building were lawyers. So, it is likely that this is a building in which lawyers work.

20.

If the driver killed the cook, then driver must have been in Paris. However, the driver was not in Paris, since the doctor saw him in London. So, it could not be that the driver killed the cook. That only leaves the Maid.