



ADMINISTRATIVE COLLEGE OF NIGERIA (ASCON)

ASCON 2004 PUBLIC SERVICE EXAMINATION

Competitive Examination for Entry into Administrative and Special Departmental Classes of the Nigerian Public Services.

29th January, 2004

1½ Hours

LOGICAL THINKING

ANSWERS ALL QUESTIONS

Identity the premises and conclusion(s) of the following passages. State Whether or not premises support the conclusion. Also state why the premises do or do not support the conclusion.

(Note that you are not required to give your own views on the topics discussed in the passages.)

1. So-called 'experts' on children often urge parents to allow their children to have as much freedom as possible in exploring their 'environment'. They argue that children are naturally curious about the world and so should not be prevented from finding out all about it even if this is sometimes inconvenient to their parents. But think of what it would be like if animals –who are also naturally curious – were given the freedom to explore their 'environment' without control. There would be chaos. This being the case, we should pay little attention pay little to the views of the experts.

- Take From Roy van den-Brink- Budgen, Critical thinking for Students.

2. If America were to sanction torture, to begin with extremely rare cases, there might be some immediate gains in security.. But, for the democratic West any such gains would be outweighed by greater harm. The prohibition against torture expresses one of the west's most powerful taboos(like that against the use of nuclear weapons) are worth preserving even at heavy cost. Though many authoritarian regimes use torture, not one of these openly admits it. A decision by the United States to employ some forms torture no matter how limited the circumstances, would shatter this taboo. The morale of the west in that may be a long war against terrorism would be gravely set back: to stay strong, the liberal democracies need to certain that they are better than their enemies.

- The Economics, **JANUARY 11TH-17TH, 2003**



3. The leader of the opposition can hardly accuse us of distorting the truth. He wasn't telling the truth when he said that he would support all measures to combat crime.

4. It is naïve to assume that whatever the character or duration of military rule, its end would automatically revive the political process and activate the legislature, the judiciary, the press and other democratic institutions. Experience shows that military rule fundamentally changes the political choice.

- Altaf Gaufar, South: Third World Magazine, 1983

5. Democratic Governance without legitimacy is a hollow shell. Legitimacy is the soul of democracy, it ensures that the people are carried along such that even when difficult decisions or measures are taken, these will not be life-threatening to the democratic system.

- New Age editorial, December 4, 2003.





ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF COLLEGE OF NIGERIA (ASCN)

ASCN 2003 PUBLIC SERVICE EXAMINATION

Competitive Examination for Entry into Administrative and Special Departmental Class of the Nigerian Public Service.

30TH January, 2003

1½ Hours

LOGICAL THINKING

100 Marks

Answers All Questions

Identify the premises and conclusion in each of the following passages. State whether or not the premises support the conclusion. Also state why the premises do or do not support the conclusion. (Note that you are not required to give your own views on the topics discussed in the passages.)

1. Helping the poor, the truly poor, is a much worthier goal than merely narrowing inequalities. If the rich get poorer, thanks to high taxation, some people may get pleased but few are better off. If the poor get richer, however the whole country will benefit. Focusing resources and policy on poverty would be worthwhile on humanitarian grounds. But, also, the disadvantages of growing in extreme poverty pose a challenge to a belief in equality of opportunity. And helping the underclass rejoin society is in interests of all.

- The Economist, June 16-22nd 2001

2. I always shudder when I hear demands by this country's minorities for increased government spending for the poor. You can tell that something is wrong with these demands as you consider were the money will go – right into the hands of those who are crying the loudest for it.

- Taken from John Eric Nolt Informal Logic:
Possible Worlds and Imagination



3. It has been shown that the increasing levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide produced by the burning of fossil fuels have caused any alteration in the world's climate. This makes the fear that burning of fossil fuels causes environmental pollution an illusory one.

Adapted from John Eric Nolt, informal Logic:
Possible words and imagination

4. The Notion that underdeveloped nations can progress without active state participation in the economy is erroneous and dangerous.... The IMF assumes that the public sector is intrinsically bad and the private sector is intrinsically good.... But virtually every country that has modernized and attained rapid economic growth has done so with a strong state playing a key role in the process. No country has been propelled to great economic heights by market force acting alone. For Eastern Asian countries like South Korea and Singapore, which are held up as models of free-market principles, did not advance without state intervention. Their success was not owed to government withdrawing from economic activity; on the contrary, the state exercised high levels of internal power....

- Tunde Obadina, Africa Today,
April/May, 2002.

5. Rather than creating poverty, global integration is a powerful force for poverty reduction in the developing world; the number of people below the poverty line has fallen by 200 million people in the past 20 years. This fall has been concentrated in countries (such as China and India) that are integrated rapidly with the global markets. What this means for Africa is that it should start interacting more forcefully with global markets if the 40 percent of the population who now live in poverty is to be reduced.

Dr. Mamphela Ramphele,
BBC Focus on Africa, April – June, 2002.





ADMINISTRATIVE COLLEGE OF NIGERIA (ASCON)

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29th January, 2004

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LOGICAL THINKING

ANSWERS ALL QUESTIONS

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Whether or not premises support the conclusion. Also state why the premises do or do not support the conclusion. (Note that you are not required to give your own views on the topics discussed in the passages.)

1. So-called 'experts' on children often urge parents to allow their children to have as much freedom as possible in exploring their 'environment'. They argue that children are naturally curious about the world and so should not be prevented from finding out all about it even if this is sometimes inconvenient to their parents. But think of what it would be like if animals –who are also naturally curious – were given the freedom to explore their 'environment' without control. There would be chaos. This being the case, we should pay little attention pay little to the views of the experts.

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authoritarian regimes use torture, not one of these openly admits it. A decision by the United States to employ some forms torture no matter how limited the circumstances, would shatter this taboo. The morale of the west in that may be a long war against terrorism would be gravely set back: to stay strong, the liberal democracies need to certain that they are better than their enemies.

- The Economics, JANUARY 11TH-17TH, 2003

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5. Democratic Governance without legitimacy is a hollow shell. Legitimacy is the soul of democracy, it ensures that the people are carried along such that even when difficult decisions or measures are taken, these will not be life-threatening to the democratic system.

1. New Age editorial, December 4, 2003.





ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF COLLEGE OF NIGERIA (ASCON)

ASCON 2003 PUBLIC SERVICE EXAMINATION

Competitive Examination for Entry into Administrative and Special Departmental Class of the Nigerian Public Service.

30TH January, 2003

1½ Hours

LOGICAL THINKING

100 Marks

Answers All Questions

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1. Helping the poor, the truly poor, is a much worthier goal than merely narrowing inequalities. If the rich get poorer, the whole country will benefit. Focusing resources and policy on poverty pose a challenge to a belief in equality of opportunity. And helping the underclass rejoin society is in interests of all.

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ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF COLLEGE OF NIGERIA (ASCN)

ASCN 2008

PUBLIC SERVICE EXAMINATION

Competitive Examination for Entry into Administrative and Special Departmental Cadres of the Nigerian Public Services

24th January, 2008.

1½ Hours

LOGICAL THINKING

ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS

Identify the premises and conclusion in each of the following passages. State whether or the premises support the conclusion. Also state why the premises do or do not support the conclusion. (Note that you are not required to give your own views on the topics discussed in the passages).

1. The need for government among men rests solely on 'original sin' or man's innate criminality. For no association, however constituted can exist without regulatory force of some kind: even a society of angels will still need some form of government if only to ensure that common tasks are assigned and coordinated.
 - **Mokwugo Okoye**
2. Seeing that eye and hand and foot and every one of our members have some obvious functions, must we not believe that in like manner, a human being has a function over and above these particular functions?
 - **Taken from Aristotle, NICO-Machine Ethics**
3. The presumption that the creation of states automatically means the creation of development is wrong. There are many areas in this country which have seen no progress even though they have been affected several times by the state creation exercise.
 - **Taken from A.G.A. Bellow, introduction to Logic**



4. Since happiness consists in peace of mind, and since durable peace of mind depends on the confidence we have in the future, and since that confidence is based on the science we should have of the nature of God and the soul, it follows that science is necessary for true happiness.

- **Taken from Gottfried Leibniz, Preface to the General Science.**

5. The inquisition must be justified and beneficial, if whole people evoked and defended it, if men of the loftiest souls founded and created it severally and impartially and its very adversaries applied it on their own account pyre answering to pyre.

- **Taken from Benedetto Croce, Philosophy of the Practical**

