

**STATEMENT AND ARGUMENT**

Directions: In making decisions about important questions, it is desirable to be able to distinguish between 'strong' arguments and 'weak' arguments. 'Strong' arguments are those which are both important and directly related to the question. 'Weak' arguments are those which are of minor importance and also may not be directly related to the question or may be related to a trivial aspect of the question.

Each question 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:

- (1) if only argument I is strong.
- (2) if only argument II is strong.
- (3) if either I or II is strong.
- (4) if neither I nor II is strong.
- (5) if both I and II are strong.

1. **Statement:** Should sex determination test during pregnancy be completely banned?

Arguments:

- I. Yes, this leads to indiscriminate female foeticide and eventually will lead to social imbalance.
- II. No, people have a right to know about their unborn child.

2. **Statement:** Should the parents in India in future be forced to opt for only one child as against two or many at present?

Arguments:

- I. Yes, this is the only way to check the ever-increasing population of India.
- II. No, this type of pressure tactic is not adopted by any other country in the world.

3. **Statement:** Should there be complete ban on mining coal in India?

Arguments:

- I. Yes, the present stock of coal will not last long if we continue mining at the present rate.
- II. No, we do not have alternate energy source of sufficient quantity.

4. **Statement:** Should all the slums in big cities be demolished and the people living in such slums be relocated outside the city limits?

Arguments:

- I. No, all these people will lose their home and livelihood and hence they should not be relocated.
- II. Yes, the big cities need more and more spaces to carry out developmental activities and hence these slums should be removed.

5. **Statement:** Should there be uniforms for students in colleges in India as in schools?

Arguments:

- I. Yes, this will improve the ambience of the colleges as all the students will be decently dressed.
- II. No, college students should not be regimented and they should be left to choose their clothes for coming to college.

6. **Statement:** Should the Government ignore the agitations mounted by certain NGOs and allow production of genetically modified cottons in India?

Arguments:

- I. Yes, this will substantially raise the production level and also improve the quality of the cotton produce benefiting the farmers.
- II. No, such NGOs are technically equipped and therefore should not be ignored.

7. **Statement:** Should the capital punishment be abolished altogether in India?

Arguments:

- I. Yes, countries belonging to European Union have abolished capital punishment.
- II. No, this is one way to instill fear in the mind of the criminals which will restrain them from committing heinous crimes.

8. **Statement:** Should the persons below the age of 18 years be allowed to join armed forces?

Arguments:

- I. No, persons below the age of 18 do not attain both physical and mental maturity to shoulder such burden.
- II. Yes, this will help the country develop its armed forces which will serve the country for a longer time.

9. **Statement:** Should all the surrogate advertisements released by companies manufacturing tobacco products be banned?

Arguments:

- I. Yes, this is the only way to prevent use of tobacco products by people.
- II. No, these companies have spent a lot of money for preparing the advertisements and hence should not be banned.

10. **Statement:** Should the reservation of jobs for weaker sections of the society be extended to the private sectors also?

Arguments:

- I. No, the management of the private sector undertakings would not agree to such compulsions.
- II. Yes, this will significantly improve the economic conditions of the weaker sections



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11. **Statement:** Should liquor companies be held liable for alcohol related accidents caused by underage youth?
Arguments:
I. Yes, they do not advertise about the consequences of consuming alcohol.
II. No, fake identity cards and licenses are easily available to the youth allowing them to obtain alcohol.
12. **Statement:** Should there be legislation to ensure that children provide maintenance to their aging parents.
Arguments:
I. Yes, the magnitude of the problem of abuse and neglect of aged parents by their immediate family is growing.
II. No, the cost of implementing this legislation will be too much.
13. **Statement:** Should the funding for national space research programmes be diverted to addressing the needs of the poor?
Arguments:
I. Yes, the budget for space research is lower than that of other countries so it cannot compete with them and can be put to better use in schemes to benefit the poor.
II. No, communication satellites help provide services like telemedicine so that people in rural areas can get access to the best professional advice.
14. **Statement:** Should the Government force private broadcasters to share coverage of international cricket matches involving the national team with the Government owned national network?
Arguments:
I. Yes, people without access to satellite television can get to see their national team playing in major international tournaments.
II. No, private broadcasters will take legal action against the Government.
15. **Statement:** Should loss making Government airlines be merged into a single entity?
Arguments:
I. Yes, the merger will pool their resources allowing them to expand their services and be more competitive with private and foreign airlines.
II. No, the merger will result in loss of jobs.
16. **Statement:** Should the admission to professional courses in India be given only on merit without any concession to any particular group of students?
Arguments:
I. Yes, this will improve the quality of the professionals as they will be able to complete the courses successfully.
II. No, this will keep large number of socially and economically backward students out of the reach of the professional courses.
17. **Statement:** Should the state governments be allowed to retain major shares of the central taxes collected in the respective states?
Arguments:
I. No, the central government should receive the major share as most of the developmental programmes are funded by the central government.
II. Yes, most of the state governments are short of funds and they badly need more funds.
18. **Statement:** Should all the private sector banks be immediately merged with the public sector banks?
Arguments:
I. No, the private sector banks are profit making entities and hence they should not be merged.
II. Yes, this will safeguard the hard earned money of the customers and their interests will be secured.
19. **Statement:** Should the incharge of all the police stations in the country be transferred every two years?
Arguments:
I. No, this will create lot of administrative hassles and also will create lot of inconvenience to the police officers.
II. Yes, this is the only way to eradicate the nexus between police officers and anti social elements.
20. **Statement:** Should the oil companies be allowed to fix the price of petroleum products depending on market conditions?
Arguments:
I. Yes, this is the only way to make the oil companies commercially viable.
II. No, this will put additional burden on the retail prices of essential commodities and will cause lot of hardships to the masses.
21. **Statement:** Should there be only one medium of instruction in all the colleges in India?
Arguments:
I. Yes, in many countries there is only one medium of instruction in all the colleges.
II. No, this is not practicable in a multilingual country like India.
22. **Statement:** Should there be reservation in Government jobs for candidates from single child family?
Arguments:
I. No, this is not advisable as the jobs should be offered to only deserving candidates without any reservation for a particular group.
II. Yes, this will help reducing the growing population in India as the parents Will be encouraged to adopt single child norm.



23. **Statement:** Should there be complete ban on opening new engineering colleges in India?

Arguments:

- I. Yes, every year lakhs of engineers and graduates from various colleges cannot find jobs as the demand is much less than the supply.
- II. No, India needs more technically qualified people to meet the ever-increasing demand of technocrats in the international arena.

24. **Statement:** Should all the Government appointees as heads of different organizations other than administrative cadre personnel resign at the time of change of Government?

Arguments:

- I. Yes, this practice is being followed in USA and has been found to be effective.
- II. No, such appointments should be kept out of political influences and each of them should be allowed to complete their full term.

25. **Statement:** Should all those who are suffering from terminal diseases be allowed to end their lives if they so desire?

Arguments:

- I. No, nobody should be allowed to end their life at their will as this goes against the basic tenets of humanity.
- II. Yes, instead of suffering with pain and no chance of recovery they should be allowed to do so.

26. **Statement:** Should the sale of tobacco products be restricted to only few outlets in each city/town?

Arguments:

- I. Yes, this will substantially reduce consumption of tobacco products.
- II. No, those who want to purchase tobacco products should get them at convenient locations.

27. **Statement:** Should the sale of all the toys made in China be banned in India?

Arguments:

- I. Yes, these are very cheap and hence will put the local toy manufacturers out of business.
- II. No, Indian toys are of much better quality and their sale will not be affected.

28. **Statement:** Should there be only a uniform rate of income tax irrespective of the level of income?

Arguments:

- I. Yes, this will substantially reduce the work of the officials of the income tax department.
- II. No, this will reduce Govt. tax collection to a large extent.

29. **Statement:** Should there not be the 9th Class exam in all Indian schools?

Arguments:

- I. No, Students should appear take the exam during the early age.
- II. Yes, students should time to analyse and think freely.

30. **Statement:** Should there be only two political parties in India?

Arguments:

- I. Yes, in many developed countries there are only two political parties.
- II. No, Indian electorate is not matured to select between only two political parties.

Directions: In making decisions about important questions, it is desirable to be able to distinguish between 'strong' arguments and 'weak' arguments. 'Strong' arguments are those which are both important and directly related to the question. 'Weak' arguments are those which are of minor importance and also may not be directly related to the questions or may be related to a trivial aspect of the question.

Each question below is followed by three arguments numbered I, II and III. You have to decide which of the arguments is a 'strong' argument and which is a 'weak' argument.

31. **Statement:** Should there be a complete ban on celebration of various 'days' in colleges?

Arguments:

- I. No, there is nothing wrong in celebrating the days and enjoying once in a while.
- II. Yes, children are giving more importance to such celebrations than the studies.
- III. No, this type of celebration gives opportunity for children to express their feelings.

- (1) Only I and II are strong
- (2) Only II and III are strong
- (3) Only III is strong
- (4) Only II is strong
- (5) None of these

32. **Statement:** Should the Examination Boards give separate time for reading the question paper over and above the stipulated time for answering the paper?

Arguments:

- I. No, it is not necessary to give separate time since reading the question paper takes hardly any time.
- II. No, reading the question is a part of preparation for writing the answer and therefore no separate time is required to be given.
- III. Yes, separate time is necessary since a lot of time goes in reading the question paper and many students find it very difficult to complete the answer paper in spite of having the knowledge.

- (1) Only I is strong
- (2) Only II is strong
- (3) Only III is strong
- (4) Only II and III are strong
- (5) None of these



33. **Statement:** Should the Government impose restrictions on access to sensitive information to the journalists to avoid the media hype?
Arguments:
 I. Yes, the media creates hype and publishes distorted information at times.
 II. No, journalists should have an access to all the information as media is the best source to expose the malfunctions in the society.
 III. Yes, at times it leads to harassment of those who are affected and alleged to be involved in the crisis.
 (1) All I, II and III are strong
 (2) Only I and II are strong
 (3) Only II and III are strong
 (4) Only II is strong
 (5) None is strong
34. **Statement:** Should the Government introduce a system of obtaining bond from students for working in India before sanctioning education loan for higher studies?
Arguments:
 I. No, this is not a workable solution and will obstruct the development of young talent in the country.
 II. Yes, this is the only way to ensure use of the talent of our country for the development of the country and not only an individual.
 III. No, this step will be too harsh.
 (1) Only I is strong
 (2) Only II is strong
 (3) Only I and II are strong
 (4) None is strong
 (5) None of these
35. **Statement:** Should the minimum age of marriage for boys be brought down to 18 years?
Arguments:
 I. No, an 18-year-old boy is not capable of taking responsibility to start a family.
 II. Yes, since the minimum age for marriage for girls is 18 years, the same should be applicable for boys as well.
 III. No, the boys should be allowed to marry only after they become self-dependent.
 (1) Only I is strong
 (2) Only II is strong
 (3) Only III is strong
 (4) Only either I or II is strong
 (5) None of these
36. **Statement:** Should the govt. deregulate the retail prices of petrol, diesel and cooking gas and allow the prices to be driven by market conditions?
Arguments:
 I. Yes, this will largely help the oil companies to sell their products at competitive price.
 II. No, the general public cannot afford market driven prices of these products.
 III. Yes, govt. needs to stop subsidizing these products and channelise the money for developmental projects.
 (1) Only I and II are strong
 (2) Only I and III are strong
 (3) Only II and III are strong
 (4) All I, II and III are strong
 (5) None of these
37. **Statement:** Should the govt. take over all the private passenger transport companies across the country?
Arguments:
 I. Yes, this should be done as the govt. runs the railways.
 II. No, govt. does not have expertise to handle such operations.
 III. Yes, this way general public can be taken out of the clutches of the private transport companies.
 (1) Only I is strong
 (2) Only I and II are strong
 (3) Only II and III are strong
 (4) All I, II and III are strong
 (5) None of these
38. **Statement:** Should the institutes of higher learnings in India like IITs and IIMs be made totally free from govt. control?
Arguments:
 I. Yes, such institutes in the developed countries are run by non-govt. agencies.
 II. No, govt. needs to regulate functions of these institutes for national interest
 III. No, these institutes are not capable to take policy decisions for smooth functioning.
 (1) Only I is strong
 (2) Only II is strong
 (3) Only III is strong
 (4) Only I and III are strong
 (5) None of these



39. **Statement:** Should the parliament elections in India be held on a single day throughout the country?
- Arguments:**
- I. Yes, this is the only way to handle such elections.
 - II. Yes, this will help the commission to concentrate on a single day for election related issues.
 - III. No, some other countries hold such elections spread over several days.
- (1) None is strong
 - (2) Only I is strong
 - (3) Only II is strong
 - (4) Only III is strong
 - (5) Only I and II are strong
40. **Statement:** Should there be a common pay structure of the central govt. and all state govt. employees in the country?
- Arguments:**
- I. No, each state govt. should have the freedom to decide the pay structure of its employees.
 - II. No, the workload and responsibilities of central govt. and state govt. employees differ and hence there should be different pay structure.
 - III. Yes, all are govt. employees and hence they should be treated equally irrespective of their working with central govt. or any state govt.
- (1) Only I is strong
 - (2) Only I and III are strong
 - (3) Only III is strong
 - (4) Only II and III are strong
 - (5) None of these
41. **Statement:** Should smoking cigarettes and drinking alcohol by the actors be completely banned in the movies in India?
- Arguments:**
- I. Yes, this will significantly reduce the trends of smoking cigarettes and drinking alcohol among youth in India.
 - II. No, there should be no such ban in the creative pursuits of the filmmaker.
 - III. No, the films portray the society and hence such scenes should be an integral part of the movie if the story line demands.
- (1) None is strong
 - (2) Only I and II are strong
 - (3) Only II and III are strong
 - (4) Only I and III are strong
 - (5) All are strong
42. **Statement:** Should sale of vital human organs be made legal in India?
- Arguments:**
- I. No, it goes against our culture.
 - II. No, this will lead to unhealthy practices.
 - III. Yes, this will bring an end to the illegal trading of human organs.
- (1) None is strong
 - (2) Only I and II are strong
 - (3) Only III is strong
 - (4) Only II and III are strong
 - (5) All are strong
43. **Statement:** Should the conscription of citizen for defence services be made compulsory in India?
- Arguments:**
- I. Yes, this is the only way to tackle the serious shortage of manpower in defence services.
 - II. No, instead the compensation package be made comparable to other job sectors to attract people to join defence services.
 - III. Yes, many other countries have made this compulsory.
- (1) Only I is strong
 - (2) Only II is strong
 - (3) Only I and II are strong
 - (4) Only either I or II is strong
 - (5) None of these
44. **Statement:** Should the salary and perquisites of public sector undertaking employees be made equivalent to those in the private sector?
- Arguments:**
- I. Yes, this will help the public sector undertakings to attract and retain competent workforce.
 - II. No, public sector undertakings cannot afford to pay salaries to the level of private sector.
 - III. Yes, otherwise the public sector undertaking will not be able to compete with the private sector organization.
- (1) None is strong
 - (2) Only III is strong
 - (3) Only I is strong
 - (4) Only II is strong
 - (5) Only I and III are strong



45. **Statement:** Should there be a complete ban on registration of new cars for few months in the big cities in India?
- Arguments:**
- Yes, this will significantly reduce the number of cars on the already overcrowded roads of the big cities in India.
 - Yes, the existing car owners will be very happy as they will face less traffic snarls in peak hour.
 - No, this is highly discriminatory against those who decide to buy cars now and hence should not be enforced.
- Only I is strong
 - Only I and III are strong
 - Only III is strong
 - All are strong
 - None of these
46. **Statement:** Should there be a complete ban on constructing housing projects on farm lands?
- Arguments:**
- No, the demands for housing is ever increasing and hence construction of such projects on farm lands should be allowed on selective basis.
 - Yes, farm lands are to be protected against any such encroachments as demand for food is increasing every year.
 - Yes, the poor farmers are exploited by the big builders.
- Only I and II are strong
 - Only either I or II is strong
 - Only III is strong
 - Only I and III are strong
 - None of these
47. **Statement:** Should at least one member from each household in India be provided with a Govt. job?
- Arguments:**
- Yes, this is the only way to eradicate poverty in India.
 - Yes, this will significantly improve the economic condition of the less privileged class.
 - No, the income of many households are otherwise quite high and these households should be kept out of such scheme.
- Only I is strong
 - Only II is strong
 - Only III is strong
 - Only II and III are strong
 - None of these
48. **Statement:** Should the rate of income tax be much higher for those who earn more one crore each year?
- Arguments:**
- No, every tax paying citizen should be treated on par irrespective of their annual income.
 - No, a small percentage of tax paying individuals earns more than one crore and hence it will not have any significant impact on Govt. earnings.
 - Yes, imposing higher rate is justified for high earners as they can afford to pay more tax to the Govt. after taking care of their own requirements.
- Only I and II are strong
 - Only III is strong
 - Only II is strong
 - All I, II and III are strong
 - None of these
49. **Statement:** Should the retirement age of teachers of all Govt. schools be increased to 65 years?
- Arguments:**
- Yes, there is an acute shortage of quality teachers.
 - No, young educated youth will be deprived of their job opportunity.
 - Yes, Govt. can defer payment towards retirement of these teachers.
- Only I is strong
 - Only II is strong
 - Only III is strong
 - Only I and II are strong
 - None is strong
50. **Statement:** Should there be a uniform eligibility criteria for admission to all the engineering colleges in the country?
- Arguments:**
- No, each college should be given freedom to decide the eligibility criteria for admissions.
 - Yes, this will largely ensure comparability among engineers passing out of different colleges.
 - Yes, many colleges admit large number of students who are not capable of completing their engineering degree.
- All are strong
 - Only I and II are strong
 - Only I and III are strong
 - Only II and III are strong
 - None of these