List of Informal Fallacies

1. Appeal to force
2. Abusive
3. Circumstances
4. Argument from Ignorance
5. Appeal to Pity
6. Appeal to the People
7. False Authority
8. Accident
9. Hasty Generalization
10. False Cause
11. Begging the Question
12. Complex Question
13. Irrelevant conclusion
14. Equivocation
15. Grammatical Construction
16. Composition
17. Division

“None” means “none of the above answers is correct.”

For questions 1–5, identify the informal fallacy from the list given.

1. God exists because the Bible tells us so, and we know that what the Bible tells us must be true because it is the revealed word of God.
(a) begging the question
(b) hasty generalization
(c) equivocation
(d) irrelevant conclusion
(e) false cause

2. The terrorists who bombed the World Trade Towers were believers of Islam, as was bin Laden. Therefore, all followers of Islam are terrorists.
(a) begging the question
(b) hasty generalization
(c) accident
(d) irrelevant conclusion
(e) false cause

3. Diamonds are seldom found in this country, so you must be careful not to mislay your engagement ring.
(a) hasty generalization
(b) equivocation
(c) irrelevant conclusion
(d) false cause
(e) division

4. It’s true that students who get A’s study hard. So if you want me to study hard, Professor, the best way to do it is to give me an A in this course.
(a) begging the question
(b) hasty generalization
(c) accident
(d) irrelevant conclusion
(e) false cause
5. Anyone who deliberately stikes another person should be punished. Therefore the heavy weight boxing champion should be severely punished, for he assaults all his opponents.
(a) begging the question
(b) hasty generalization
(c) accident
(d) irrelevant conclusion
(e) false cause

6. True or false? (Assume standard facts.) Consider the following statements:
(i) George W. Bush is president or McDonald’s is a restaurant.
(ii) If Al Gore is president then the Cubs won the 2001 World Series.
These statement are:
(a) both true
(b) (i) is true and (ii) is false
(c) (i) is false and (ii) is true
(d) both false
(e) None

7. The negation of the sentence “Some politicians are honest and sincere” is
(a) “Some politicians are dishonest or insincere.”
(b) “All politicians are dishonest or insincere.”
(c) “Some politicians are dishonest and insincere.”
(d) “All politicians are dishonest and insincere.”
(e) None

8. The negation of the sentence “If a man answers, then the caller hangs up” is
(a) “If a man does not answer, then the caller hangs up.”
(b) “If a man does not answer, then the caller does not hang up.”
(c) “If a man answers, then the caller does not hangs up.”
(d) “A man answers and the caller does not hang up.”
(e) None

9. The contrapositive of the sentence “If blarbs are snarfs, then hameeds are steeds” is
(a) “If hameeds are steeds, then blarbs are snarfs.”
(b) “If blarbs are not snarfs, then hameeds are not steeds.”
(c) “If Blarbs are snarfs, then Hameeds are not sneeds.”
(d) “If hameeds are not steeds, then blarbs are not snarfs.”
(e) “Blarbs are snarfs, but some hameed is not a steed.”

For questions 10–13, determine whether each argument is valid. If you believe the argument is valid, identify the formal rule that it uses.

10. Where there’s smoke, there’s fire.
    There is no fire in the basement.
    Therefore, there is no smoke in the basement.
(a) direct reasoning
(b) indirect reasoning
(c) transitivity
(d) the or rule
(e) invalid
11. If the gloves don’t fit, then the jury will acquit.
   The jury acquits.
   Therefore, the gloves don’t fit.
   (a) direct reasoning
   (b) indirect reasoning
   (c) transitivity
   (d) the or rule
   (e) invalid

12. The stranger is a knave or a fool.
   He is a knave.
   Therefore, he is no fool.
   (a) direct reasoning
   (b) indirect reasoning
   (c) transitivity
   (d) the or rule
   (e) invalid

13. If the dimpled ballots are counted, then Gore will win in Florida.
    If Gore wins Florida, then Gore will be president.
    Therefore, Gore will be president if the dimpled ballots are counted.
   (a) direct reasoning
   (b) indirect reasoning
   (c) transitivity
   (d) the or rule
   (e) invalid

14. Determine “the best conclusion” which uses all of the following premises:
    If you do not need protective goggles, you work at a safe desk job.
    If you have impaired vision and headaches, you do not work at a safe desk job.
    If you work at a video display terminal, you do not need protective goggles.
    Janice works at a video-display terminal.
   (a) Janice does not need protective goggles.
   (b) Janice needs protective goggles.
   (c) Janice has impaired vision and headaches.
   (d) Either Janice does not have impaired vision or else Janice does not have headaches.
   (e) None

15. True or False. A logically minded person must accept the conclusion of a logically valid argument.
   (a) True
   (b) False