

1

The following case requires you to decide where the burden of proof belongs. You must decide WHO is making a claim, which side is asserting something special, and who is entitled to claim that they are relying on accepted beliefs and are not asserting anything that requires special proof.

The defendant Joe Sly is charged with burglary. He is accused of burglarizing the home of Sam Citizen on the night of October 1, 2017, between the hours of 9:00 and 11:00 P.M., while Sam was at the movies. Sly offers as an alibi the testimony of Crandall Crook, who testifies that on the night of the burglary the two of them were playing cribbage at Crook's apartment from 8:00 P.M. straight through until after midnight. Unfortunately for Sly, on cross-examination the district attorney inquires into the history of Mr. Crook and discovers a lengthy record of burglary and perjury convictions. As you and the other members of the jury settle yourselves around the jury table, one member of the jury begins the deliberation with the following remarks:

Well, we won't be long here, will we? That's the flimsiest alibi I ever heard. I don't believe a word of what Crandall Crook said. He's lied before, and he was lying again. Since we obviously can't accept the defendant's alibi, the defense does not have a leg to stand on. And that's the end of it.

Has your fellow juror committed an illicit appeal to ignorance? Yes or No? Answer with reference to the above instructions. Answer thoroughly, with precision please.

2

What would it mean to say that the coach is committing the fallacy of confusing cause and effect? Carefully answer with reference to the causal claim just given.

A football coach who is trying to bring his team out of a slump studies the statistics of past games. His research on several teams over a number of years shows that many more passes and attempted passes are almost always made by the losing team than by the winning team. From this information, the coach infers that he can make his team win by restricting the number of passes they throw.

3

What causal fallacy is likely being committed here? Very briefly explain.

The results of a survey conducted by a typewriter company indicate that college students who own typewriters are, on the average, better students than college students who do not own typewriters. So, if you want to succeed in your college studies, you should get a typewriter.

4

Here are five syllogisms. For each one, provide the missing conclusion (below the broken line). Each answer is worth 2 marks.

i)  
No F are G  
All H are F

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ii)  
No F are G  
Some H are F

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iii)  
Some X are A  
All X are B

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iv)  
No F are Z  
Some Z are J

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v)  
Some M are not K  
All M are S

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