



ST031

**ADMISSION TEST FOR THE DEGREE COURSE IN MEDICINE AND SURGERY**

**Academic Year 2016/2017**

## General Knowledge and Logical Reasoning

- 1 Historical research suggests economic hardship is the main cause of most extreme social catastrophes. People are able to commit serious crimes when their lives are at stake. The French Revolution of 1789 took place after bad harvests and a sharp increase in food prices. The driving force of the Bolshevik revolution of 1917 was city dwellers, stricken by economic hardship. In addition, impoverished people are very susceptible to various kinds of propaganda and can be persuaded to breach basic norms and values for the sake of an allegedly better society. The rise of extreme dictatorships in various countries was usually preceded by extreme economic hardship, as was the case in Germany in the 1930s.

Which one of the following, if true, most weakens the above argument?

- A The Dutch revolution of 1566 took place when the country was enjoying a period of rapid economic growth and prosperity.
- B The Chinese Empire survived a number of popular revolts over a period of 700 years.
- C Ancient Greece survived a number of social catastrophes, despite being a combination of city-states with different forms of governance.
- D The collapse of the Soviet Union came when the world price of oil, the main Soviet export, fell sharply in the early 1980s.
- E Despite a high level of prosperity in medieval Italian republics, a number of Italians chose to leave their home towns and settle in other territories.

- 2 What is it that guides our behaviour in day-to-day life – that keeps us all in line? Some might say it was the law, since if you are caught breaking the law you can be punished. But how many of our actions are so determined? Is it illegal to shove in front of someone in a queue? To laugh at a stranger's haircut? To cheat on your boyfriend? In actual fact, relatively few areas of our lives are affected by the law. Most behavioural decisions are guided by a sense of social norms and conventions. It is how we are likely to be judged on this level – and not a legal one – that causes us to act as we do.

Which one of the following best expresses the main conclusion of the above argument?

- A It is social conventions, not laws, that commonly determine how we act.
- B Fear of punishment is what determines how we act.
- C There are many things we typically refrain from doing which are not themselves illegal.
- D Relatively few areas of our lives are governed or determined by the law.
- E The law does not extend as widely into our lives as commonly thought.