

General Knowledge and Logical Reasoning

- 1** A study involving a brain-training exercise was carried out on more than a thousand adults aged 65 and over, some of whom later developed dementia. Results showed that the benefits of the five-week mental agility course undertaken by some of the adults lasted for at least five years. This led to an improvement in everyday activities such as money management and the ability to do housework. If those with trained brains developed dementia, they did so later than those in the control group. The results also showed that, for those people in the study who developed dementia, after the diagnosis their mental decline occurred faster than for those who had not undertaken the training.

Which one of the following can be drawn as a conclusion from the above passage?

- A** Keeping the mind active delays the onset of dementia.
 - B** All over-65s who undertake brain training live for at least five years afterwards.
 - C** Older people do not perform mentally challenging tasks unless forced to do so.
 - D** People do a decreasing amount of housework as they grow older.
 - E** It is preferable to have swift mental decline once dementia develops.
- 2** Once again it has become fashionable for householders to replace their carpets with wooden floors. Sales of laminate and solid floors, such as oak, have seen a massive increase in the last ten years. This trend seems more in tune with our eco-friendly aspirations: carpets are often plastic-based and use vast quantities of underlying material, or underlay, made from petrochemicals. For this reason, it seems unlikely that wooden floors will go out of fashion in the near future.

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

- A** Most types of laminate and wood floors use petrochemicals in their manufacture.
- B** Not all wooden floors need a layer of underlay.
- C** Carpets can harbour dust mites and allergens.
- D** Sales of carpets made of synthetic materials have decreased in the last ten years while woollen carpets have seen an increase.
- E** Wooden floors may look longer-lasting but can be more easily damaged than carpets.