

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Sharpen Your Seventh Grade Syllogisms and Logic Skills

Strengthen abstract reasoning by analyzing faulty premises, identifying cognitive biases, and dissecting complex arguments found in historical and scientific debates.

1. Imagine a debate about city planning. A speaker says, 'If we build this new park, we will eventually have to provide free ice cream to everyone in the city, which will bankrupt us.' Which logical error is being used?

- A. Hasty Generalization
- B. Slippery Slope
- C. Circular Reasoning
- D. Red Herring

2. In formal logic, the '____ Bias' occurs when someone only looks for information that supports their existing beliefs while ignoring evidence that contradicts them.

- A. Availability
- B. Confirmation
- C. Anchoring
- D. Bandwagon

3. True or False: A 'valid' argument in logic means the conclusion is definitely true, even if the starting facts (premises) are false.

- A. True
- B. False

4. Consider this argument: 'No mammals lay eggs. A platypus lays eggs. Therefore, a platypus is not a mammal.' While the logic is structurally correct, why is the conclusion scientifically wrong?

- A. The logic is circular
- B. The first premise is a false statement
- C. It uses an ad hominem attack
- D. The conclusion does not follow the structure

5. During a trial, a lawyer argues: 'The defendant was seen near the library at 4:00. The crime happened at 4:00. Therefore, the defendant committed the crime.' What is the primary weakness of this argument?

- A. Correlation does not imply causation
- B. It is a tautology
- C. It uses the Appeal to Authority
- D. It is a Red Herring

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6. Which term describes a reasoning process that moves from specific observations (like 'this ice is cold') to a broad generalization ('all ice is cold')?

- A. Deductive Reasoning
- B. Inductive Reasoning
- C. Syllogistic Reasoning
- D. Abductive Reasoning

7. True or False: In a 'Post Hoc' fallacy, someone assumes that because Event B happened after Event A, Event A must have caused Event B.

- A. True
- B. False

8. An advertisement states: '9 out of 10 athletes wear Stride Shoes; you should too!' Which logical fallacy is being used here to persuade the audience?

- A. False Analogy
- B. Appeal to Emotion
- C. Bandwagon Fallacy
- D. Straw Man

9. A ____ is a logical argument that uses two premises to reach a conclusion, such as: 'All men are mortal; Socrates is a man; therefore, Socrates is mortal.'

- A. Bias
- B. Syllogism
- C. Paradox
- D. Heuristic

10. True or False: Critical thinking involves both the ability to analyze information and the 'disposition' (the willingness) to be open-minded and fair.

- A. True
- B. False