

EXERCISE : A

1 Decide whether each of the following cases contains an argument. If it does not, write 'N/A'. If it does, identify its premises and conclusion by underlining the appropriate propositions and writing 'C' under the conclusion and 'P' and the appropriate number under the premises. Remember that premise and conclusion indicators are not part of those propositions:

Example

Bob is a dog and all dogs are black. So Bob is black.



P1

P2

C

Notice that we have not underlined the words that connect or introduce the propositions, only the propositions themselves:

- a It follows from the fact that all cats are pests that this cat is a pest.
- b I'll never get to work if this traffic keeps up.
- c Whenever a person drinks instant coffee they end up with stomach ache and Jack is going to have stomach ache since he just drank a cup of instant coffee.
- d There is going to be a frost in the morning because the temperature has fallen below zero.
- e The biscuit tin is empty because the children ate all the biscuits.
- f Christians take care of the needy. Tony Blair's social and economic policies discriminate against the needy. He can't be a Christian.
- g Since this animal is a fish, it can't be a mammal.
- h The American-led invasion of Iraq has set the cause of world peace back by centuries.
- i Leeds is north of Birmingham and Birmingham is north of Brighton. So Leeds is north of Brighton.
- j My ex-partner was always telling me to change my appearance, so I changed my partner.

- k If those chemicals are released into the river, thousands of fish will die.
- l Since inflation is increasing, the price of mortgages is sure to go up.
- m Everyone at the lecture is bored. No one who is bored is listening. Therefore no one at the lecture is listening.
- n He's been on crutches since he was injured in the accident.
- o On the basis of the fact that it includes scenes depicting drug abuse, the film should not be shown on prime-time television.
- p If we don't do something to control the level of car traffic now, air pollution will become so bad that our grandchildren will not be able to walk the streets for fear of asphyxiation.
- q The Government proposes to reform the benefits system. Whenever such reforms occur someone loses out, so the Government's proposals are unfair.
- r Something must be done to regulate the cultivation of genetically manipulated foodstuffs. Uncontrolled production of these crops will lead to a collapse of the ecosystem.
- s If we hit our children, they will learn that violence is acceptable, so we shouldn't physically discipline our children.
- t It is, therefore, an impractical solution to the problem of homelessness.

2 Write out the following arguments in standard form. You need not supply missing premises or change the words used unless it is absolutely necessary to retain the sense of a sentence, but you should omit indicator words:

Example

The Government should ban fox-hunting. Fox-hunting causes suffering to animals and anything that causes suffering to animals should be banned.

- P1) Fox-hunting causes suffering to animals.
- P2) Anything that causes suffering to animals should be banned.

C) The Government should ban fox-hunting.

- a If Manchester Utd win against Arsenal, Chelsea will go to the top of the Premier League. Manchester Utd have beaten Arsenal so Chelsea will be top of the league.

- b Children should not watch television programmes that lack educational merit. *Pokemon* fails to promote linguistic and cognitive development and programmes only have educational merit in so far as they promote linguistic and cognitive development. Children should not watch *Pokemon*.
- c I put it to ~~you~~ that Ms White killed Colonel Mustard in the ballroom with the candlestick. The reason I say this is that on the night of Colonel Mustard's death Lady Scarlet saw Ms White in the ballroom beating Colonel Mustard over the head with a candlestick, which was later found to have Ms White's fingerprints and Colonel Mustard's blood on it.
- d The team manager should be sacked. Whenever the team manager is sacked, team spirit is revitalised and this team's spirit certainly needs revitalising.
- e Excessive consumption by consumers in the developed world causes poverty and disease in the developing world and that's simply unjust. So if we care about the rest of the world, we should curb our consumption.
- f History will show President Bush to have been a successful president after all. The reason is that he has managed to maintain the USA's reputation as a super-power and that's the most important criterion by which to judge a US president.