HOW TO ANSWER ASSUMPTION QUESTIONS

An assumption is an underlying belief, often unstated, that serves as the basis or foundation for an argument, inference, or conclusion. It is a proposition or idea that is accepted without explicit evidence or proof.

Assumption questions are designed to assess your ability to identify and understand the underlying assumptions that support the argument or information presented in the passage. These questions often require you to infer unstated or implicit beliefs that are crucial to the author's reasoning or to the coherence of the passage.

Steps to Approach Assumption Questions:

Step 1: Read the passage carefully: Begin by reading the paragraph thoroughly to understand the main idea, argument, or information being presented.

Step 2: Identify the argument or key points: Determine what the author is trying to convey, and identify the central argument in 3-6 words

Step 3: Look for unstated connections: Assumptions are often connections between the evidence presented and the conclusion drawn that are not explicitly stated. Pay attention to logical gaps or missing information that are necessary to support the main argument or claim.

Step 4: Eliminate irrelevant answer choices: Eliminate any answer choices that are not related to the argument or that do not seem to be essential to the logical structure of the passage.

Step 5: Choose the best answer: Select the answer choice that reflects a logical and necessary assumption for the argument to hold true. **It should fill in the gap** between the evidence and the conclusion, making the argument coherent and convincing.

Step 6: Consider negation: If you are unsure about an answer choice, try negating it (imagining the opposite to be true) and see if the argument falls apart. If it does, then that assumption is likely necessary for the argument's validity.