

Test Questions

[Critical Thinking in the Age of Artificial Intelligence](#) Copyright © 2025 by Germán Gutiérrez-Sanin is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License](#), except where otherwise noted.

OpenAI. (2025). ChatGPT. [Large language model]. <https://chat.openai.com/chat>

Prompt: *As a teacher, create a combination of 30 multiple-choice and True or False test questions for first-year college students based on the contents of the attached file: Chapter 5 - Evaluating Evidence in Academic Reading*

1. Which statement best defines a fact in academic reading?
 - A. A belief based on personal values
 - B. Verifiable information supported by objective data or reliable sources
 - C. Any widely shared opinion
 - D. An argument that relies on persuasive language

Answer: B

2. Which of the following is an example of an opinion?
 - A. The Earth orbits the Sun
 - B. In 2020, Canada had roughly 38 million people
 - C. Shakespeare is the greatest playwright in history
 - D. Water boils at 100°C at sea level

Answer: C

3. In academic work, evidence is best described as:
 - A. Information used to support a claim
 - B. Any data, whether relevant or not
 - C. A persuasive conclusion without support
 - D. A sensational headline that draws attention

Answer: A

4. Which item is NOT part of the “Bare Essentials” test for evaluating evidence?
 - A) Currency
 - B) Objectivity
 - C) Accuracy
 - D) Authority

Answer: B

5. Which option most strongly indicates reliable statistics?
- A) A viral infographic with no cited source
 - B) A Statistics Canada report that explains its methodology
 - C) A personal blog post sharing one person's experience
 - D) An online forum poll with unknown participants

Answer: B

6. Which is a red flag when evaluating statistics and data?
- A) Transparent methodology included with the data
 - B) Percentages tied to a clearly defined sample and timeframe
 - C) A claim such as "90% of people think..." with no citation or details
 - D) A peer-reviewed meta-analysis with complete references

Answer: C

7. A personal story used to illustrate a point is best categorized as:
- A) Empirical evidence
 - B) Theoretical evidence
 - C) Anecdotal evidence
 - D) Statistical evidence

Answer: C

8. An argument grounded in conceptual models rather than direct observation is:
- A) Empirical evidence
 - B) Theoretical evidence
 - C) Testimonial evidence
 - D) Anecdotal evidence

Answer: B

9. Which language cue most strongly signals an opinion?
- A) "According to the data..."
 - B) "Research shows..."
 - C) "I believe..."
 - D) "The results indicate..."

Answer: C

10. Which sentence is most likely value-laden and therefore opinion-based?
- A) "According to the data collected in 2024..."
 - B) "The randomized trial found no significant effect."
 - C) "We must adopt the best solution immediately."
 - D) "The 2023 report documents a 12% increase."

Answer: C

11. Which is the best place to find credible, expert-vetted research?

- A) An anonymous blog post
- B) A peer-reviewed journal article accessed via PubMed
- C) A social-media thread by an influencer
- D) An unmoderated wiki entry with no sources

Answer: B

12. When checking a source, which question is most appropriate?

- A) Is it entertaining to read?
- B) Who wrote it and what are their credentials?
- C) How many likes or shares did it receive?
- D) Does it confirm my existing view?

Answer: B

13. Which sign most clearly indicates a weak source?

- A) Full references and citation trail
- B) A sensational headline with no named author
- C) Transparent methodology
- D) Publication in a peer-reviewed journal

Answer: B

14. Which scenario best illustrates selection bias?

- A) A health study includes only urban participants
- B) A study samples multiple regions and demographics
- C) Participants are randomly assigned to conditions
- D) Researchers run a double-blind trial

Answer: A

15. Which example best demonstrates framing bias?

- A) Reporting a procedure as “90% survive” rather than “10% die”
- B) Researchers’ expectations influence participant behavior
- C) Only selecting studies that confirm a hypothesis
- D) Relying on the first number one sees in a negotiation

Answer: A

16. Which example best demonstrates ideological bias?

- A) An article favoring a political ideology while omitting alternative views
- B) A calculation error in a dataset

- C) A formatting error in a table of results
- D) A randomized, double-blind trial

Answer: A

17. Which situation best represents experimenter (researcher) bias?
- A) A researcher unconsciously cues participants toward the expected outcome
 - B) Participants are randomly assigned and blinded
 - C) The study uses a double-blind procedure
 - D) Results are evaluated by independent reviewers

Answer: A

18. Which situation best illustrates anchoring bias?
- A) The initial \$300 price makes a \$150 jacket seem inexpensive
 - B) Comparing results across multiple independent studies
 - C) Calculating the mean of a representative sample
 - D) Verifying statistics against primary sources

Answer: A

19. Which is the clearest example of groupthink in decision-making?
- A) A team suppresses dissent to preserve harmony despite concerns
 - B) Team members actively encourage critique and debate
 - C) Anonymous peer review identifies flaws
 - D) Random sampling ensures representation

Answer: A

20. Which statement best captures implicit bias?
- A) Unconscious stereotypes affect judgments and decisions
 - B) Intentional deception of research participants
 - C) A calculation error in data analysis
 - D) Random variability in measurement

Answer: A

True & False

21. Evaluating evidence helps protect readers against misinformation and baseless claims. (Answer: True)
22. Anecdotal evidence is generally as strong as empirical evidence for proving a claim. (Answer: False)
23. Government reports (e.g., national census) are examples of primary data from public institutions. (Answer: True)
24. The “Bare Essentials” test includes Purpose as one of its elements. (Answer: True)

- 25. If a statement begins with “Research shows...”, it should be accepted without verification. (Answer: False)
- 26. Strong writing links claim, evidence, and conclusion while avoiding logical fallacies. (Answer: True)
- 27. Double-blind testing is one safeguard that helps reduce experimenter bias. (Answer: True)
- 28. Anchoring bias only affects shoppers and has no relevance to legal or policy decisions. (Answer: False)
- 29. Recognizing bias helps us become better thinkers and informed citizens. (Answer: True)
- 30. Credible sources are typically untraceable and provide no references. (Answer: False)