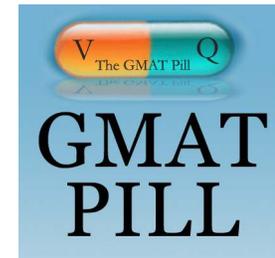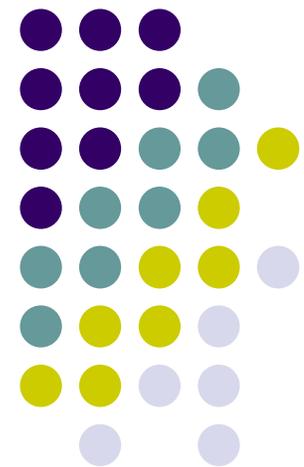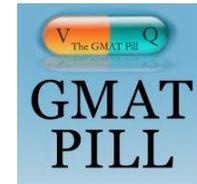# GMATPill's RC Pill:
Reading Comprehension Frameworks

GMAT PILL

I. Reading the Passage

II. How to Approach RC Questions

III. Standard Question Types

IV. Key Take-Aways

I. Reading the Passage

Follow my "General Tips on Reading" video where I introduce concepts of

1. *Getting your mind engaged in the passage*
2. *Cutting the Fluff*
3. *Scanning for key transitive phrases*
4. *Connecting the Dots*

II. How to Approach RC Questions

Sample Question:

The author's argument concerning the effect of the official sale of duplicate artifacts on illegal excavation is based on which of the following assumptions?

○ Prospective purchasers would prefer to buy authenticated artifacts.

○ The price of illegally excavated artifacts would rise.

○ Computers could be used to trace sold artifacts.

○ Illegal excavators would be forced to sell only duplicate artifacts.

○ Money gained from selling authenticated artifacts could be used to investigate and prosecute illegal excavators.

Archaeology as a profession faces two major problems. First, it is the poorest of the poor. Only paltry sums are available for excavating and even less is available for publishing the results and preserving the sites

(5) once excavated. Yet archaeologists deal with priceless objects every day. Second, there is the problem of illegal excavation, resulting in museum-quality pieces being sold to the highest bidder.

I would like to make an outrageous suggestion that

(10) would at one stroke provide funds for archaeology and reduce the amount of illegal digging. I would propose that scientific archaeological expeditions and governmental authorities sell excavated artifacts on the open market. Such sales would provide substantial funds for

(15) the excavation and preservation of archaeological sites and the publication of results. At the same time, they would break the illegal excavator's grip on the market, thereby decreasing the inducement to engage in illegal activities.

(20) You might object that professionals excavate to acquire knowledge, not money. Moreover, ancient artifacts are part of our global cultural heritage, which

II. How to Approach RC Questions

After reading the question, where do your eyes go?
A) <u>REFER</u> to the passage first?
OR
B) <u>READ THRU</u> all the answer choices first?

The author's argument concerning the effect of the official sale of duplicate artifacts on illegal excavation is based on which of the following assumptions?
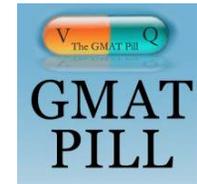
B

○ Prospective purchasers would prefer to buy authenticated artifacts.

○ The price of illegally excavated artifacts would rise.

○ Computers could be used to trace sold artifacts.

○ Illegal excavators would be forced to sell only duplicate artifacts.

○ Money gained from selling authenticated artifacts could be used to investigate and prosecute illegal excavators.

??

Archaeology as a profession faces two major problems. First, it is the poorest of the poor. Only paltry sums are available for excavating and even less is available for publishing the results and preserving the sites
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(20) You might object that professionals excavate to acquire knowledge, not money. Moreover, ancient artifacts are part of our global cultural heritage, which

A

II. How to Approach RC Questions

Type A Questions:

- <u>REFER to the passage first</u> when the question is more detailed and there are specific topics mentioned. It is likely these specific topics are mentioned in specific points in the passage where your focus should be
- Give yourself the appropriate background information before looking at the answer choices.
- **Follow the RC Pill Attack Strategy – introduced in a later slide** – *most questions fall in this category!*

*"The author's argument **[concerning the effect of the official sale of duplicate artifacts on illegal excavation]** is based on which of the following assumptions?"* ← Detailed Question
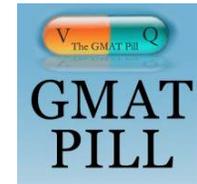

Type B Questions:

- <u>READ THRU the answer choices first</u> when the question is generic with no details, no topics mentioned.
- One by one, go thru the passage to confirm its validity.
- Identify keywords in the answer choice and find the relevant areas in the passage to confirm.
- Watch RC Pill videos to figure out how to fine tune your approach to answering these questions.}

"The author's argument in the passage is based on which of the following assumptions?" ← Generic Question
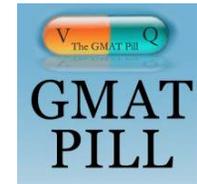
II. How to Approach RC Questions

*"The author's argument **concerning the effect of the official sale of duplicate artifacts on illegal excavation** is based on which of the following assumptions?"*

Detailed Question

" For the above question, after reading it do we start reading thru all the answer choices then jump back to the passage? Or do we do some research in the passage and then look at the answer choices? "

Not the first one! The second one. Since the question was detailed enough to mention specific topics, we should dive back into the passage first to get background info BEFORE reading thru the answer choices. **Use the "RC Pill Attack Strategy!" Find all instances where "illegal digging" and "selling duplicate artifacts" is mentioned. Then start reading the answer choices with the background info in mind.**

II. How to Approach RC Questions
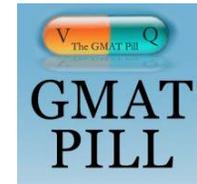
The RC Pill Attack Strategy

(for detailed questions "A" where we first dive into the passage
to get background info BEFORE reading answer choices)

Step 1) Identify "INSTANCES" in the passage where the topic is talked about. Find ALL of these instances. (Thru the first read, you should have already gotten the structure of the passage down, use it to help you scan through the passage to identify instances of that topic.)

Step 2) After reading those instances giving you background information, read the answer choices one by one and eliminate

Step 3) Eliminate answer choices

- that require you to search elsewhere OUTSIDE of those "instances" you identified. Chances are, if it requires you to dive into a different paragraph where no "instance" was found, it is likely the wrong answer.

- that are only half true (one half of the answer choice is valid but the other half is incorrect or irrelevant)

- watch RC Pill Videos and learn my thinking strategy

II. How to Approach RC Questions

Type A Question:

"The author's argument concerning the effect of the official sale of duplicate artifacts on illegal excavation is based on which of the following assumptions?"
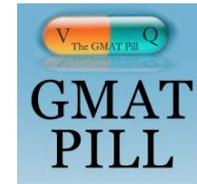
→ *Use RC Pill Attack Strategy, identify topic of interest in the question and find all INSTANCES of it in the passage to give yourself background info before reading answer choices*

Type B Question:

"The author's argument is based on which of the following assumptions?

→ *Go thru each answer choice, eyeing for keywords. Scan thru passage to find areas that talk about the keyword – use passage structure to help you.*

Still stuck? Follow the RC Videos to see how to fine tune your thinking as you go through RC Questions.
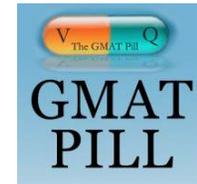
III. Standard Question Types

A) Main Idea

B) According to the Passage, …

C) It can be INFERRED / SUGGESTED that…

D) Which of the following.../ All of the following EXCEPT" Questions

E) Combination Questions

III. Standard Question Types

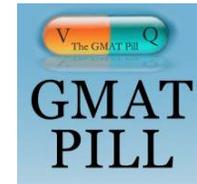## A) Main Idea:

GMATPill says:
   Answer choice MUST be derived from <u>connecting the dots</u> from paragraph to paragraph

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"What is the main idea of the passage?"

"What is the organization of the passage?"

"The primary purpose of the passage is to…"

III. Standard Question Types

B) "According to the passage…":

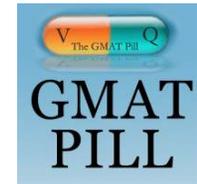*"According to the passage, ..."*

"The author would most likely agree that…"

"The author quotes so and so in order to ..."

"Which of the following is mentioned in the passage..."

III. Standard Question Types

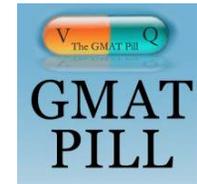C) "It can be INFERRED / SUGGESTED that…":

GMATPill says:
   - The answer WILL NOT be explicitly stated / rephrased in the passage. It will require you to draw upon two sentences or concepts to derive at a statement that is INFERRED from these phrases.

   - Apply "RC Pill Attack Strategy" when question is "detailed".

"The passage implies that…"

"We may infer which of the following…"

"The author implies that..."

"The passage suggests that…"

III. Standard Question Types

D) Which of the following.../ All of the following EXCEPT"
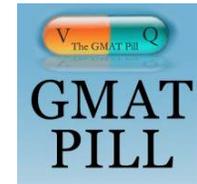Questions:

GMATPill says:
- This question will likely require you to read through all the answer choices and might take you longer than usual to answer.
- Watch RC Pill videos to capture the nuance for this type of question in different passages.

"All of the following statements are true EXCEPT..."
"The author's argument is based on which of the following assumptions?"
"The author cites each of the following EXCEPT ..."
"Which of the following can be most reasonably concluded ..."

III. Standard Question Types
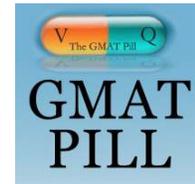
E) Combination Questions:

GMATPill says:
Some questions will be a combination of the ones identified, such as an "inference" question requiring you to go thru all answer choices.

"The author implies that all of the following statements about duplicate artifacts are true EXCEPT..."

"According to the passage, all of the following statements about duplicate artifacts are true EXCEPT..."

IV. Key Take-Aways

II. How to Approach RC Questions – **allows us to stay focused and avoid confusion. Ultimately save time!**

Determined whether we should dive into the passage or read thru all the answer choices immediately after reading the question

III. Standard Question Types – **allows us to better eliminate wrong answer choices. Ultimately get the right answer!**

By categorizing the questions, we know what to expect and what to eliminate. If we are expecting an answer choice that is explicitly stated in the passage, then we can eliminate the ones that SOUND true but we can't really find where in the passage it's stated.

Though, if that question was an "inference" question, then we know we have to be more careful of what answer choices we are eliminating. Just because an answer choice is not stated in the passage doesn't mean it can't be implied. So we have to double check on these.

For main idea questions, if we can't take an answer choice and be able to connect that idea from paragraph to paragraph then it is probably wrong. If the answer choice only mentions something covered in only one paragraph rather than all paragraphs, then it is probably wrong.