Tutorial A10 Answer Key

A10.5 Exercises

Question 1. Evaluate these arguments from analogy. See if you can identify any aspects in which the two things being compared are not relevantly similar.

- We should not blame the media for deteriorating moral standards. Newspapers and TV are like weather reporters who report the facts. We do not blame weather reports for telling us that the weather is bad.

Answer: Weather reports do not change the weather, but newspaper reports and the public media can influence people and have an indirect effect on moral standards.

- Democracy does not work in a family. Parents should have the ultimate say, because they are wiser and their children do not know what is best for themselves. Similarly the best form of government for a society is not a democratic one but one where the leaders are more like parents.

Answer: There are many relevant ways in which a family is different from a society. First, the government officials need not be wiser than the citizens. Also, many parents might care for their children out of love and affection, but government officials might not always have the interests of the people at heart.

- “Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church.” - St. Paul, Ephesians 5:22.

Answer: Should a husband be regarded as the head of his wife?

4. In the early 17th century, astronomer Francesco Sizi argued that there are only seven planets: “There are seven windows in the head, two nostrils, two ears, two eyes and a mouth; so in the heavens there are two favorable stars, two unpropitious, two luminaries, and Mercury alone undecided and indifferent. From which and many similar phenomena of nature such as the seven metals, etc., which it were tedious to enumerate, we gather that the number of planets is necessarily seven.”

Answer: There is no reason to suppose that the solar system is like a human body. Even if there were, there is no reason to suppose that the “windows” of the solar system are planets; human “windows” are empty spaces, but planets are not empty spaces.