Recognizing Flaws in Questions

Mark the answer that describes the flaw (not the answer to the question)

1) A 60-year-old man is brought to the emergency department by the police, who found him lying unconscious on the sidewalk. After ascertaining that the airway is open, the first step in management should be intravenous administration of:

A. examination of cerebrospinal fluid
B. glucose with vitamin B1 (thiamine)
C. CT scan of the head
D. Phenytoin
E. Diazepam

A) Absolute Terms  B) Logical Cues  C) Word Repeat  D) Grammatical Cues

2) Crime is

A. equally distributed among the social classes
B. overrepresented among the poor
C. overrepresented among the middle class and rich
D. primarily an indication of psychosexual maladjustment
E. reaching a plateau of tolerability for the nation

A) Absolute Terms  B) Logical Cues  C) Word Repeat  D) Grammatical Cues

3) In patients with advanced dementia, Alzheimer's type, the memory defect:

A. can be treated adequately with phosphatidylcholine (lecithin)
B. could be a sequela of early parkinsonism
C. is never seen in patients with neurofibrillary tangles at autopsy
D. is never severe
E. possibly involves the cholinergic system

A) Grammatical Cues  B) Long Correct Answer  C) Logical Cues  D) Absolute Terms

4) Secondary gain is:

A. synonymous with malingering
B. a frequent problem in obsessive-compulsive disorder
C. a complication of a variety of illnesses and tends to prolong many of them
D. apparent in organic brain damage

A) Grammatical Cues  B) Long Correct Answer  C) Logical Cues  D) Absolute Terms
5) A 58-year-old man with a history of heavy alcohol use and previous psychiatric hospitalization is confused and agitated. He speaks of experiencing the world as unreal. This symptom is called:

A. depersonalization  
B. derailment  
C. derealization  
D. focal memory deficit  
E. signal anxiety

A) Convergence Strategy  B) Absolute Term  C) Grammatical Use  D) Word Repeats

6) Local anesthetics are most effective in the

A. anionic form, acting from inside the nerve membrane  
B. cationic form, acting from inside the nerve membrane  
C. cationic form, acting from outside the nerve membrane  
D. uncharged form, acting from inside the nerve membrane  
E. uncharged form, acting from outside the nerve membrane

A) Logical Cues  B) Word Repeats  C) Absolute Term  D) Convergence Strategy

7) Following a second episode of infection, what is the likelihood that a woman is infertile?

A. Less than 20%  
B. 20 to 30%  
C. Greater than 50%  
D. 90%  
E. 75%

A) Word Repeats  B) Frequency terms are vague  C) Numeric data are not stated consistently  D) Convergence Strategy

8) Severe obesity in early adolescence

A. usually responds dramatically to dietary regimens  
B. often is related to endocrine disorders  
C. has a 75% chance of clearing spontaneously  
D. shows a poor prognosis  
E. usually responds to pharmacotherapy and intensive psychotherapy

A) Word Repeats  B) Frequency terms are vague  C) Numeric data are not stated consistently  D) Convergence Strategy