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LOGIC

A syllogism is a kind of deductive reasoning where we use at least two propositions to arrive at a conclusion.

Question 1 :

One of the earliest syllogisms we know of begins with the two following statements :

All men are mortal.

Socrates is a man.

What is the conclusion ?

Explain the chain of implications which leads you to this conclusion.

Question 2 :

Lewis Carroll is famous for his games of logic based on syllogisms.

Here are three statements of his :

« No experienced person is incompetent.

Jenkins is always blundering.

No competent person is always blundering. »

What conclusion can you draw ?

Nota : Jenkins is a person, and « to blunder » is to make mistakes.

Question 3 :

This last example is a bit more difficult :

« All writers who understand human nature, are clever.

No one is a true poet unless he can stir the hearts of men.

Shakespeare wrote "Hamlet".

No writer who does not understand human nature, can stir the hearts of men.

None but a true poet could have written "Hamlet". »

It could help you to use the following notations :

W to stand for « writers who understand human nature »

P to stand for « true poets »

S to stand for « able to stir the hearts of men ».

What is your conclusion ?

Nota : « to stir the hearts of men » is to create emotions.