

A Typology of Arguments

Keith Burgess-Jackson

arguments

inductive	deductive				
	syllogistic				nonsyl- logistic
	categorical			noncate- gorical	
	standard-form (N=256)		nonstd form		
	valid (N=15)	invalid (N=241)			
1	2	3	4	5	6

The typology is exhaustive and exclusive. To say that it's *exhaustive* is to say that it exhausts all the possibilities, i.e., that every argument goes somewhere in the typology. To say that it's *exclusive* is to say that no argument goes in more than one category. It follows that every argument goes in exactly one category. Every argument, in other words, is either (1) an inductive argument, (2) a valid standard-form categorical syllogism, (3) an invalid standard-form categorical syllogism, (4) a nonstandard-form categorical syllogism, (5) a non-categorical syllogism, or (6) a nonsyllogistic argument. Think of at least one example of each category.

Here are definitions of key terms:

- An **argument** is a group of propositions, one of which (the conclusion) is claimed to follow from the other(s) (the premise(s)).

- A **deductive argument** is an argument (see immediately above) in which the conclusion is claimed to follow necessarily from the premise(s).
- A **sylogistic deductive argument** (a.k.a. a **sylogism**) is a deductive argument (see immediately above) with two premises.
- A **categorical syllogism** is a syllogism (see immediately above) that contains (1) three categorical propositions and (2) three different terms, each of which appears twice.
- A **standard-form categorical syllogism** (of which there are 256) is a categorical syllogism (see immediately above) in which (1) all three propositions are standard-form categorical propositions (A, E, I, or O) and (2) the major premise is listed first, before the minor premise.
- A **valid standard-form categorical syllogism** (of which there are 15) is a standard-form categorical syllogism (see immediately above) that preserves truth.

You will be thoroughly tested on this typology, including the definitions.