

Game 19 – Oil Explorers

Exactly seven oil explorers—Fideli, Goldin, Hindieh, Minshull, Reid, Silhan and Thorpe—will each explore exactly one of three fields—W, X and Y—for petroleum reserves. One of the fields will be explored by exactly three oil explorers, the other two by exactly two. The following conditions govern the exploration of the fields:

Reid and Silhan explore the same field as each other.

Thorpe does not explore the same field as either Fideli or Silhan.

If Minshull explores field X, Goldin explores field Y.

1. Which one of the following could be a complete and accurate list of the oil explorers who explore field W?
 - A. Minshull, Fideli, Silhan
 - B. Goldin, Fideli, Thorpe
 - C. Silhan, Reid, Fideli
 - D. Reid, Goldin, Fideli
 - E. Thorpe, Reid, Silhan
2. Each of the following could be the only explorers of field W EXCEPT
 - A. Silhan and Fideli
 - B. Reid and Silhan
 - C. Hindieh, Goldin and Minshull
 - D. Thorpe and Fideli
 - E. Reid and Minshull

3. If Goldin and two others explore field X, which one of the following must be true?
 - A. Minshull and Reid explore different fields.
 - B. Hindieh and Thorpe explore different fields.
 - C. Fideli and Minshull explore different fields.
 - D. Silhan explores field Y.
 - E. Fideli explores field W.
4. If Thorpe explores field Y with Hindieh and no others, which one of the following could be true?
 - A. Minshull explores field X.
 - B. Goldin and Reid explore field W.
 - C. Silhan and Goldin explore field X.
 - D. Fideli and Silhan explore field W.
 - E. Neither Silhan nor Fideli explores field X.
5. Which one of the following could be true?
 - A. Minshull, Goldin and Hindieh all explore a field together.
 - B. Silhan, Goldin and Fideli all explore a field together.
 - C. Thorpe explores a different field from both Hindieh and Goldin.
 - D. Goldin and Minshull explore field X.
 - E. Thorpe and Reid explore field Y.
6. If Thorpe explores field W with Goldin and Hindieh, then how many different groups of oil explorers could explore field X?
 - A. one
 - B. two
 - C. three
 - D. four
 - E. five

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1. C
2. C
3. A
4. C
5. C
6. A

Games of groups like this are classics on the LSAT. Pay attention to space and relational deductions—rarely does a game like this tell you exactly what group an element is in.

Question 1 is the typical testing of the rules, and four of the answers break a rule. This is also the case with Question 2, which asks you which could be true—for example, answer C would force two incompatible elements together. On Question 3, you can deduce that since the other two fields have exactly two explorers and Minshull must be exploring one of them based on the last rule, Minshull is exploring a different field than the Silhan and Reid pair.

On Question 4, you can deduce that Minshull can't be exploring field X because Goldin isn't in field Y, so Minshull must be in field W. This inference excludes all of the incorrect answers. On Question 5, Thorpe doesn't need to be with Goldin or Hindieh—Thorpe can explore a field with Minshull and comport with the rules. All other answer choices break a rule. Finally, on Question 6 you can infer that Minshull must be exploring field Y because of the third rule, and since there are already three people exploring field W, this field has only one other explorer. Of Fideli, Silhan, and Reid—the three not placed—only Fideli can go in field W with Minshull, whereas Reid and Silhan must go in field X.