**Informal reasoning: fallacies**

**Task one:** Select one of the fallacies below to go with each of the definitions in the table

*Hasty generalization - Loaded question - Ad ignorantiam - False dilemma - Post hoc ergo propter hoc - False analogy - Ad hominem – Equivocation - Circular reasoning - Special pleading*

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|  | The ten deadly fallacies |  | Definition | Example |
| 1 |  | a | Claiming something is true because it cannot be proved to be false |  |
| 2 |  | b | Generalising from insufficient evidence |  |
| 3 |  | c | Confusing a correlation with a causal connection |  |
| 4 |  | d | Attacking/ supporting the person rather than the argument |  |
| 5 |  | e | Assuming the truth of what you are supposed to be proving |  |
| 6 |  | f | Using double standards to excuse an individual or group |  |
| 7 |  | g | Using language ambiguously |  |
| 8 |  | h | Assuming that because two things are alike in some respects they are alike in other respects |  |
| 9 |  | i | Assuming that only two black and white alternatives exist |  |
| 10 |  | j | A question that is biased because it contains a built- in assumption |  |

**Task two**: Select one or more of the examples below to go with a fallacy

i. Since strict gun control laws were introduced in Dodge City, the crime rate has risen. This shows that gun control does nothing to reduce crime  
ii. Miss Bunker said she trusted me, and she must be telling the truth because she wouldn’t lie to someone that she trusted.  
iii. The ends justify the means. After all, if you want to make an omelet, you have to break eggs  
iv. That can’t be right, none of my friends would believe it.  
v. Since many great scientists have believed in God, there must be some truth in religion  
vi. Roxanna and Jordan got on very well on their two dates together. They are clearly well suited and should get married.  
vii. Do you want to be part of the solution, or part of the problem?  
viii. “I agree that you shouldn’t copy mp3s illegally, but I’ve only copied a few and I do buy tracks sometimes.”  
iv. The average UK family has 2.5 children. The Dineens are average people, they must have 2.5 kids.  
x. Since no-one has been able to prove that God didn’t create the universe, we must conclude that God did make everything.  
xi. Are all your family stupid, or is it just you?  
xii. No scandal has ever touched Mr Rick Perry. He must be a clean living and honest man  
xiii. Just as you are more likely to take care of a car that you own rather than a car that you rent, a slave owner would look after a slave better than an employer would look after their worker  
xiv. To ignore the possibility that Joseph Patterson-Roberts landed the first person on the moon just because nobody has heard of Joseph Patterson-Roberts’s space program is arrogant. If we are unaware of something does not mean that it never happened