(G) Zoink! (1/2)

G1.

a. CORRECT	B, C, E, F
b. WRONG	D, G
c. MAYBE	A, H, I

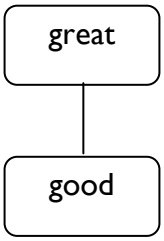
Different people will find different routes through this problem, but the following notes present one route which is hopefully clear and relatively similar for those whose intuitions don't take them straight to the answer.

1. Look at the syntax of the phrases 1-17 and reduce the diversity. Each phrase links two adjectives which we can call x and y. Here's a list of the different patterns, distributed into two groups:

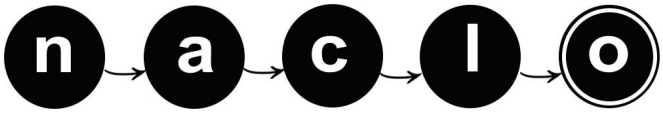
x<y	x>y
x but not y	not x, but just y
x, though not y	not x, just y
not just x but y	
not only x but y	

In all the x<y patterns, adjective x has a weaker meaning than adjective y; for example, in good but not great, 'good' is weaker than 'great', just as it is in good, though not great, not just good but great and not only good but great; so all these different phrases tell you the same thing: 'good' < 'great'. In the x>y patterns, the relation is reversed: not great, but good and not great, just good, so 'great' > 'good'.

2. Since the relative strength of x and y is all you're interested in, you can replace all the phrases 1-17 by a representation of this relation. To do this you need to remove the difference between x<y and x>y, which is just a matter of syntax. You could convert one of these notations into the other, e.g. converting all the x>y patterns into y<x patterns; but at this point it will be more helpful to move towards a network notation which shows the relation more clearly. The obvious iconic ('natural') notation for this relation uses the vertical dimension to link the stronger adjective down to the weaker one below, like this:

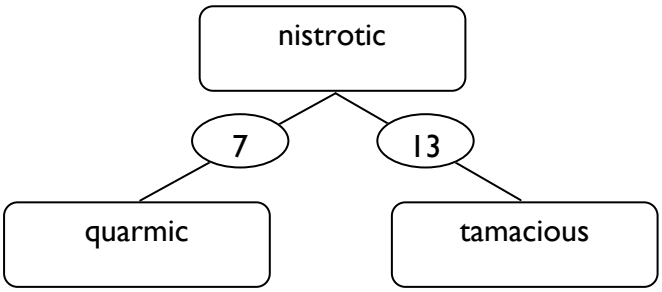


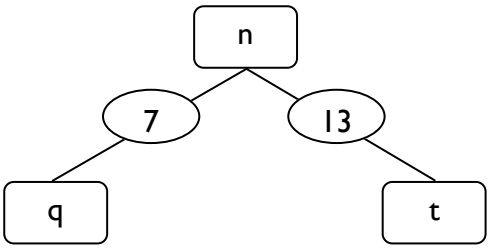
3. Now you work through 1-17 to convert the relations into this notation. But notice that the same adjective can appear in two or more phrases, so you're actually dealing with a complex network of relations rather than a list of isolated relations. Here too your new notation will come in handy because it allows you to write each adjective just once, but to give it more than one link to other adjectives. For instance, nistrotic is linked both to quarmic (phrase 7) and to tamacious (13), as shown below. The diagram on the right takes advantage of a convenient fact: that every adjective begins with a different letter, so you can save writing them



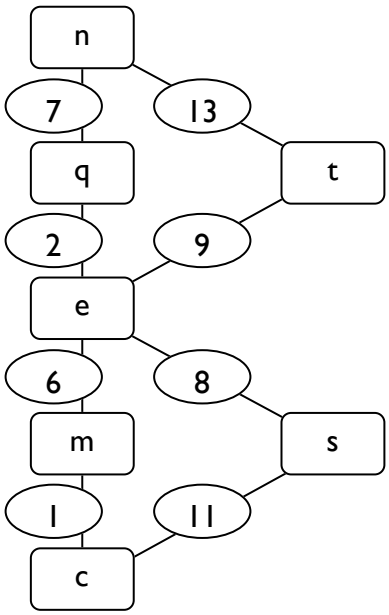
(G) Zoink! (2/2)

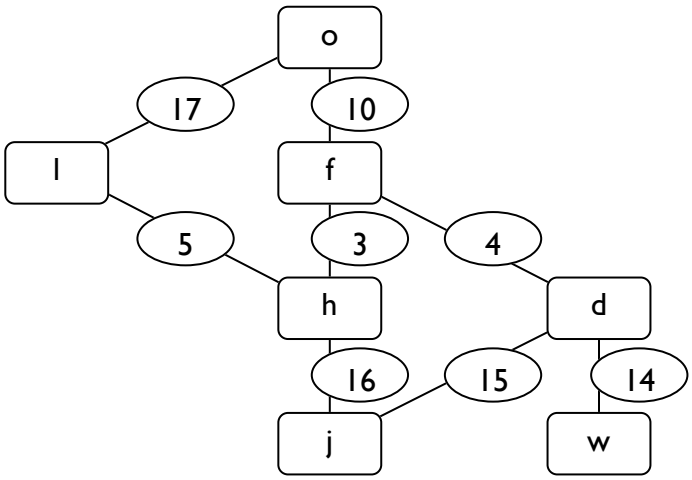
out by just using their initial letter. The number in the ellipse reminds you of the phrase which defines the relation concerned.





4. Continuing this process with some juggling, you eventually find that the adjectives actually form two separate and unconnected networks. This means that, between them, these phrases actually define just two scales or dimensions, each with several different grades of increasing strength, and each with some synonyms for the same grade. We don't, of course, know what these scales are – reliability, speed, attractiveness, price or whatever – but we do know about the formal structuring of the different points on the scales. Here are the two networks:





5. And finally to the solution: You represent each of A-I using the same notation, and compare it with the networks.

- Correct: if the adjectives x and y are in the same network, and the higher one is also higher in the network.
- Wrong: if x and y are in the same network but the higher one is lower in the network.
- Possible: if x and y are in different networks.