

Examrace: Downloaded from examrace.com [<https://www.examrace.com/>]

For solved question bank visit [doorsteptutor.com](https://www.doorsteptutor.com)

[<https://www.doorsteptutor.com>] and for free video lectures visit [Examrace](https://www.doorsteptutor.com)
[YouTube Channel \[<https://youtube.com/c/Examrace/>\]](https://youtube.com/c/Examrace/)

Western Logic Informal Fallacies- Fallacies of Relevance for NET, IAS, State-SET (KSET, WBSET, MPSET, etc.), GATE, CUET, Olympiads etc.

Get unlimited access to the best preparation resource for competitive exams : [get questions, notes, tests, video lectures and more \[<https://www.doorsteptutor.com/>\]](https://www.doorsteptutor.com/) - for all subjects of your exam.

Complete Video at - [Western Logic Informal Fallacies: Fallacies of Relevance \(Philosophy\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P3r5hmTR_bU)
[\[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P3r5hmTR_bU\]](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P3r5hmTR_bU)

Informal Fallacy

- Informal fallacy occurs when there is a mistake or an error with the content of the argument.
- Informal fallacies concern themselves with the content of an inductive argument where the content is irregular, insufficient or ambiguous due to which it fails to provide a logical conclusion.
- Informal fallacies are numerous in number but they can be best understood when arranged in four main heads.
- They are;
 - Fallacies of Relevance
 - Fallacies of Defective Induction
 - Fallacies of Presumption
 - Fallacies of Ambiguity

Complete notes and preparation module at [doorsteptutor.com](https://www.doorsteptutor.com/Exams/UGC/Philosophy/)
[\[https://www.doorsteptutor.com/Exams/UGC/Philosophy/\]](https://www.doorsteptutor.com/Exams/UGC/Philosophy/)

Fallacies of Relevance

- They occur when there is no connection between the premises and the conclusion.
- They are most common and frequently occurring fallacies in arguments, speeches, etc.
- In other words, it occurs when the premises of the argument are not relevant to the drawn conclusion.
- They are of six kinds;
 - **The appeal to Emotion**
 - The Red Herring

- The Straw Man
- The Attack on the Person
- The Appeal to Force
- Missing the Point
- Argument to Pity
- **The Appeal to Emotion:**
 - In this fallacy, the argument is tried to be won by appealing to the emotions of the audience.
 - It relies on emotions, expressive language and not on reason, evidence and rational thinking.
 - Hence, the name appeal to one's or people's emotions.
 - Another name for this fallacy is *Argument ad populum*.
 - For example, the fairness cream advertisement shows that ever since the girl has started applying the fairness cream, people have started noticing her, she is getting jobs offers, etc.
 - So, this argument appeals to the emotions of the dark or brown skinned people.
 - In this argument, emotions are used to win an argument.
 - This fallacy substitutes emotions for reason.
 - This fallacy is mostly used in political speeches, advertisements of beauty products, etc.
- **The Red Herring:**
 - It is a fallacy of relevance which is committed when some distraction is used to mislead or confuse.
 - This deals with deliberately misleading the conversation on some other topic or subject which was not initially the part of the conversation.
 - For example, a child tells his mother that I want a toy and the mother replies, let's go home early as there is a present for you at home.
 - Here, the topic of discussion shifts to something else which was not the topic before.
 - Similarly when A says to B, Global warming is a harsh reality. B replies saying there are so many people who die every year because of cold.
- **The Straw Man:**
 - This fallacy is committed when one manipulates, distorts and plays with an argument and makes an argument turn over some other conflict within the discussion.
 - In simpler words, it occurs when we shift the conflict to some other issue within the same conversation.

- It is a work of manipulation, it is committed when one manipulates, distorts and plays with an argument and makes an argument over some other conflict within the discussion.
- For example, when a group of people were critically analysing the drawbacks of the current government, some people shifted the focus to how bad the earlier government was.
- This fallacy deals with a deliberate action. Similarly, when A says to B, I like the rainy season. B replies, if there is no sun, crops will die and eventually we will all die of hunger.
- **The Attack on the Person:**
 - Attacking a person is committed when one attacks a person for accepting a conclusion rather than attacking the conclusion.
 - In other words, argument against the people or *argument ad hominen* is committed when an attack is made on the person who defends the conclusion and not on the conclusion.
 - As the name rightly suggests, attack the person.
 - For example, don't believe what Rahul says on global warming because Rahul is a dropout from college.
 - Here, a personal attack is made on Rahul for being a college dropout and not on what he is stating on global warming. Or, you failed in the Hindi test, do not teach me logic.
- **The Appeal to Force:**
 - Appeal to force or *ad Baculum* is committed when force or threats are used to win an argument.
 - For example, if you do not vote for our party, then there will be only unemployment in the society. Therefore, the youth will have no jobs.
 - Or, I want you to pay me in advance else I will see you alone.
 - Here, force, coercion, or even a threat of force is used in place of reason in order to win an argument.
- **Missing the Point:**
 - This fallacy is also known as the fallacy of irrelevant conclusion or mistaken refutation.
 - Missing the point is a fallacy when there is a disconnect between the premise and the conclusion.
 - It is also known as *Ignoratio Elenchi*.
 - For example,
 - **There are more reports of theft reported in Delhi**
 - **More people are moving to Delhi**

- **Therefore**, more thefts are caused by more people moving to Delhi
- **Appeal to Pity:**
 - It is another variety of the fallacy of appeal to emotions.
 - Under this fallacy, the pity of another person is evoked in-order to win an argument.
 - For example, I did not do my homework because I was really ill, I couldn't even lift the pencil.
 - This is a fine example of appeal to pity of the teacher used by a student who failed to do his/her homework.
 - Another example would be, don't punish the poor old man for his sins, he lives on the streets and have no one to look after him.
 - It is also know as ad *Misericordiam*, *Misericordiam* in Latin means merciful heart.

MCQ

Q-1. *ad Misericordiam* is also known as.

Options:

- A. Attack on Person
- B. Appeal to force
- C. Missing the point
- D. Appeal to pity

Answer: D

Q- 2. Informal fallacies occur when

Options:

- A. Form of the argument has a mistake
- B. Structure of the argument has a mistake
- C. Content of the argument has a mistake
- D. Both A and B

Answer: C

Q- 3. A says to B, I like the rainy season. B replies, if there is no sun, crops will die and eventually we will all die of hunger. This commits the fallacy of

Options:

- A. Straw man
- B. Red Herring
- C. Missing the point
- D. Attack the person

Answer: A

4. A says to B, Global warming is a harsh reality. B replies saying there are so many people who die every year because of cold. This commits the fallacy of

Options:

A. Straw man

B. Red Herring

C. Missing the point

D. Attack the person

Answer: B

- We learnt about:

#informal

#fallacies

#Relevance

