9 Community matters

AIMS: Vocabulary about groups • Categorizing and labelling • Matching features

Part 1: Vocabulary








1 **These pictures symbolize different aspects of 'community'. Complete these definitions of two-word phrases where the first word is 'community'. If necessary, choose it from the box below the table.**

1	community ...	a place that is specially provided for the people, groups and organizations in a particular area, where they can go in order to meet one another and do things
2	community ...	an educational institution in the USA where students from the surrounding area can take courses in practical or academic subjects
3	community ...	a system in which the police work only in one particular area of the community, so that everyone knows them. In Britain, there are Community Support Officers, volunteers who are trained to prevent and solve low level crimes so that people feel safer
4	community ...	unpaid work that criminals sometimes do as a punishment instead of being sent to prison
5	community ...	help available to persons living in their own homes, rather than services provided in residential institutions
6	community ...	the feeling of loyalty to a group that is shared by the people who belong to the group

spirit centre college service policing care

2 **The word *community* contains information about its meaning and its grammatical category: it is similar to the word *common*, and the *-ity* ending tells us that the word is a noun.**

What do you think the words in the table opposite mean? What are their grammatical categories? If you are not sure, choose from the options in the box below the table.

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	grammatical category	meaning
communal		
a commune		
a communist		

a	a supporter of communism (the political belief that all people are equal and that workers should control the means of producing things)
b	a group of people who live together and share everything.
c	belonging or relating to a community as a whole; something that is shared

3 **Categorize the following words by ticking the appropriate column(s). There may be more than one correct answer. Then complete the other boxes in the table, where possible.**

	adjective	verb	adverb	noun
criminal				
volunteer				
loyalty				
residential				
punish				

4 **The words on the right refer to groups of people. Match them with the word on the left that they best combine with. Use a dictionary if necessary.**

1	political	**a**	party
2	online	**b**	cast
3	voluntary	**c**	band
4	film	**d**	group
5	rock	**e**	team
6	friendship	**f**	community
7	sports	**g**	organization

Watch Out!

It's important to recognize what pronouns in a text refer to. Be careful with *they, their* and *them*: they do not always relate to plural forms. They are often used to talk about individuals to avoid mentioning gender (*he, she, his* or *her, him* or *her*).

A team member must be prepared to put other people's needs before their own. (This avoids the use of 'his/her own'.)

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Exam information | Matching features

In the exam, you may be asked to match a list of factual statements or opinions to a group of features taken from a text. The information in the list of statements will not be in the same order as in the text. You may not need all the features or you may be able to use some of them more than once.

1 **Copy and complete the table, according to features they have in common, e.g. grammatical form or meaning. Then label each of the categories. (Hint: two of the columns are grammatical categories.)**

organization he educational community communal team her cast practical crowd they loyal band academic she theirs criminal them safe mine party

Category 1:	Category 2:	Category 3:
organization	he	educational

2 **Look at the newsletter on the next page. Choose one or two words from each paragraph (A–G) to describe what the paragraph is about. The first one has been done for you.**

A fundraising (walk)
B .....
C .....
D .....
E .....
F .....
G .....

3 **How many of the paragraphs mention the following? Write the letters A–G.**

1 dogs .....
2 money .....
3 problems in the community .....
4 activities for children .....
5 activities that involve food .....
6 people who live(d) locally .....
7 volunteers .....

4 **Find paraphrases in the text for the following statements. Write them in your notebook.**

1 As many people have been asking for it ...
2 Many people turned up to the Forest Schools activities.
3 The winner will receive a big chocolate egg.
4 There will be another group meeting so that everyone can practise before the real interviews.
5 We have just planted many new trees.
6 You need to enrol before you can attend any of these activities.

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Warley Woods Community Trust

Welcome to our third newsletter of the year!

(A) Our main activity for March is our *Walk for the Woods* fundraising event on Saturday, 17th March, starting any time between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. In recognition of locally born Jack Judge, who wrote the song 'It's a long way to Tipperary' 100 years ago, we will be walking the distance between Warley Woods and Tipperary. It is indeed a long way—260 miles—so we need a lot of people to do a lot of 1 mile laps round the Woods. The more people that you can get to sponsor you, the more money we can raise to help look after our beautiful woodland. Sponsor forms are available from the shop at the Woods or on our website.

(B) Lots of new trees have gone in recently. The Sunday volunteers planted two beeches and an oak in the meadow last week. This was thanks to a grant from the Big Tree Plant and to Lisa and Gordon Whitaker whose friends gave money for the big trees instead of wedding presents. Thanks to everyone who took part including Lisa and Gordon and South Staffordshire plc who dug the big holes for us. (There is a DVD of one of the volunteers falling in—or was he pushed?)

(C) There were 15 volunteers at the Oral History Training Day which was led very ably by Julia Letts. Lots of issues were discussed and ideas considered. The group will be meeting again and will have the opportunity to do some practice interviews before starting to interview the local people who have offered to tell their stories. We are happy to hear from others who would like to be interviewed about their memories of the Woods for the project. If you or anyone you know is interested, please contact Viv Cole at the office. This project is funded by Heritage Lottery Fund.

(D) We already have sponsors for two of our events this year. Derek Spires, a local estate agent, is sponsoring *Theatre in the Woods* which this year is *Much Ado About Nothing* and will take place on Thursday, 14th June. Also, Companion Care Vets are sponsoring the Picnic. We are still looking for a sponsor for the *All about Dogs* event on 9th September, so if you, or any company you know, would like to do this, please get in touch with the office.

(E) The trustees have been giving some thought to ways of minimizing future damage to the fountain, and have decided to contact a specialist local firm to see what can be done about the graffiti.

(F) There was a huge response to the Forest Schools activities held at half term. These will be held again during the Easter holidays on the following dates: 4th, 5th and 11th April from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for over 8s. On 12th April from 10 a.m. to 12 noon there will be a Teddy Bears' Picnic for the under 8s. All sessions must be booked in advance and forms are available at the shop or office.

(G) Finally, don't forget the Easter Egg Roll on Bank Holiday Monday, 9th April, starting at 11 a.m. Bring your £1.00 entry money and your own hard-boiled and decorated egg to roll down the hill in the woods. The first past the finishing line will win a massive chocolate egg! This year, due to popular demand, there will also be an Adults' Easter Egg Roll following the children's competition.

We look forward to seeing you all soon, at one of our many events!

Glossary

trust: a group of people or an organization that has control of an amount of money or property and invests it on behalf of other people or as a charity • *trustee:* someone with legal control of money or property that is kept or invested for another person, company or organization.

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Part 3: Exam practice

Questions 1–9

Match each item 1–9 with the correct group A–D. You can use any letter more than once.

1 people feel safe here .....
2 these exist in different forms .....
3 people support each other .....
4 it is difficult to say exactly what they are .....
5 they have a lot to offer their members .....
6 people can do things on a bigger scale .....
7 the members meet up in person .....
8 people are prepared to take on other people's responsibilities .....
9 people are strangers .....

This is true for:
A all communities
B online communities
C traditional communities
D none of the mentioned communities

The importance of community

'Community' is not a concept that is easy to define. In this essay, I will examine what transforms individuals into a community, and discuss some different types. I will also look at what all communities have in common, the benefits they offer and draw conclusions about their increasing importance.

The word 'community' may trigger images of traditional communities in the developing world, where large families live together. Elderly parents live with their children and grandchildren in one house. Parents have relative freedom: if they leave the house there is always someone left behind to look after their children. If it is their own parents who need to support, their older children can take care of this. We may also imagine the neighbours as people who are happy to help out whenever it is needed. The stereotypical view is that of a village, where people have little but can feel very rich because everyone takes responsibility for the welfare of the others.

At the other end of the spectrum, there are other types of communities: ultra-modern ones, where the community members are unlikely to have actually met each other. These are online communities, where people blog or chat about particular issues that are important to them. They come across others on websites and may

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develop a relationship there with like-minded people, discussing the same topics. The view is often that these are artificial bonds between people who are, in effect, still isolated strangers.

In reality, of course, this is not true, as the connections are real. Moreover, there are many types of communities in between these extremes: people who join sports and leisure clubs, who sign up with voluntary, political, religious or other organizations, who attend events such as coffee mornings (e.g. fundraising circles, mother and baby groups), or who take part in group discussions in their local area. They may be campaigning about issues or simply getting together for companionship and support.

Human beings are social by nature, so it should not be a surprise that we organize ourselves in groups. However, there is more going on: these groups provide something that we cannot achieve on our own. The main benefit of being part of a larger group is strength in numbers. For example, we can access and share more information, we can take part in team sports, we can complain and campaign more effectively and even if we are just having a chat, online or in person, we can feel supported in whatever we do.

The stereotypical views of the happy village and the isolated computer users may not be completely true, but what we do know is that whatever forms communities take, what defines them is the sense of identity and security that they provide for their members: the knowledge that there are people who we have something in common with and who can be relied on to be there when we need each other.

Progress check

How many boxes can you tick? You should work towards being able to tick them all.

Did you ...

identify the key words in the statements? ☐

look for paraphrases in the text? ☐

scan the text to find the right section? ☐

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