

READING DAY 1

Table Completion

A team of social psychologists from California has spent six years studying the reactions of people in cities around the world to different situations. The results show that cities where people have less money generally have friendlier populations. Rio de Janeiro in Brazil, which is often known for its crime, comes out top, and the capital of Malawi, Lilongwe, comes third.

But what makes one city friendlier than another? The psychologists from California State University say it has got more to do with environment than culture or nationality. They carried out a study into the way locals treated strangers in 23 cities around the world. The team conducted their research through a series of tests, where they dropped pens or pretended, they were blind and needed help crossing the street.

The study concludes that people are more helpful in cities with a more relaxed way of life such as Rio. While they were there, researchers received help in 93 percent of cases, and the percentage in Lilongwe was only a little lower. However, richer cities such as Amsterdam and New York are considered the least friendly. Inhabitants of Amsterdam helped the researchers in 53 percent of cases and in New York just 44 percent. The psychologists found that, in these cities, people tend to be short of time, so they hurry and often ignore strangers.

adapted from an article by Victoria Harrison, BBC News

Now complete the table. Choose **ONE** word from the passage for each answer.

city	positive aspects	negative aspects	% of help received
Rio de Janeiro	- friendly inhabitants - more 1 - lifestyle	- People <i>don't have so much</i> 2 - Has reputation for 3	93%
Amsterdam and New York	richer	People ... - have little 4 - don't pay attention to 5	Amsterdam: 53% New York: 44%

NOTE COMPLETION***The happiest country in the world***

Children growing up in Costa Rica are surrounded by some of the most beautiful and diverse landscapes in the world. Preserving tropical rainforests isn't Costa Rica's only success, because the government also makes sure everyone has access to health-care and education. So when the New Economics Foundation released its second Happy Planet Index, Costa Rica came out number one. The index is a ranking of countries based on their impact on the environment and the health and happiness of their citizens.

According to Mariano Rojas, a Costa Rican economics professor, Costa Rica is a mid-income country where citizens have plenty of time for themselves and for their relationships with others.

'A mid-income level allows most citizens to satisfy their basic needs. The government makes sure that all Costa Ricans have access to education, health and nutrition services.' Costa Ricans, he believes, are not interested in status or spending money to show how successful they are.

Created in 2008, the Happy Planet Index examines happiness on a national level and ranks 143 countries according to three measurements: their citizens' happiness, how long they live (which reflects their health), and how much of the planet's resources each country consumes. According to researcher Saamah Abdallah, the Index also measures the outcomes that are most important, and those are happy, healthy lives for everyone.

adapted from Yes! Magazine

Now complete the notes. Choose **ONE WORD OR / A NUMBER** from the passage for each gap.

The Happy Planet Index

Year started: **1**

Number of countries it lists: **2**

Measures each country's happiness according to:

- its effect on the **3** (i.e. the quantity of the Earth's **4** that it uses);
- the **5** of the population (i.e. how long people live);
- how happy its **6** are.