

Student Name: _____ Date: ___ / ___ / 2022 Score: _____

QUIZ 3

Unit 7A: A CROWN IN HARMONY

DIRECTIONS: Choose the best answer for each question.

A Crowd in Harmony

[A] It is before dawn on the second major bathing day of the festival, and fog shrouds the river. In a single day, tens of millions of people will bathe in the Ganges River here in Allahabad, India. In the moonlight, the crowds begin to swell on the riverbank. There are thousands here already, but the crowd is calm and united. There is no pushing or panic, only a sense of purpose as pilgrims enter the icy water to bathe and come out again. People cooperate and help one another. Afterward, they are joyful.

[B] As the day progresses, the number of people stepping into the river increases. Some splash in the water, some drop flowers into it, and others light oil lamps and set them floating on the river. There are men who splash into the water theatrically with swords in hand. There are unwilling children whose parents drag them in fully clothed. There are holy men dressed in bright orange robes with skin covered in sacred white ash. There are other devout men wearing the ash but little or no clothing, as their religion requires. There are people everywhere, but somehow, incredibly, no one is stepped on, no one is drowned, and no one is heard screaming for help. All is harmony.

[C] It is the Kumbh Mela, the largest and most sacred gathering of all Hindu pilgrimages. It is also considered to be the largest peaceful gathering of people anywhere in the world. Each year, as part of the Kumbh, several million Hindus bathe here in the sacred Ganges River. Every 12 years, the gathering becomes much larger, and a giant tent city is set up to house the participants.

[D] In 2013, the Kumbh lasted 55 days, and it is estimated that 120 million pilgrims participated in activities such as ritual bathing, praying, singing, feeding the poor, and religious discussion. The Kumbh tent city covered more than 25 square kilometers. It was divided into 14 areas, each with its own hospital, police station, roads, grocery store, and supplies of electricity and drinking water - an extraordinary achievement. The basic crowd-control strategy was to avoid dangerous overcrowding at "hot spots," such as bridges and train stations. "Incredibly well organized, incredibly clean, very efficiently run," said Rahul Mehrotra, a professor of urban design and planning at Harvard University, who observed the festival.

The Scientific Approach

Psychologists like Stephen Reicher from the University of St. Andrews in the U.K. suspect that crowds have a positive impact on the health of the individuals within them. "What our research shows is that, actually, crowds are critical to society," he says. "They help form our sense of who we are, they help form our relations to others - they even help determine our physical well-being."

[F] Reicher and his colleagues came to this, the largest Hindu festival, to test the idea that crowds are beneficial and to confirm the healthful effects of the Kumbh on its participants. Before the start of the 2011 festival, his researchers went out into the Indian countryside to question a group of prospective pilgrims about their mental and physical health. They also questioned people who didn't plan to attend. The researchers returned to question both groups a month after the Kumbh had ended. Those who stayed in their villages reported no real change over the period of the study. The pilgrims, on the other hand, reported a 10 percent improvement in their health, including less pain, less anxiety, and higher energy levels. What's more, the good effects lasted long afterward.

[G] Why should belonging to a crowd improve your health? Psychologists think a shared identity is the cause. "You think in terms of 'we' rather than 'I,'" explains Nick Hopkins from the University of Dundee in the U.K. This way of thinking alters human relationships. Members of the crowd support one another, competition becomes cooperation, and people are able to achieve their goals in a way they wouldn't be able to alone.

The Power of Crowds

[H] Unfortunately - in spite of the mutual support so evident elsewhere at the Kumbh - 36 people died in a stampede¹ at the Allahabad train station on February 10, 2013. Somehow the crowd had lost its harmony. Reicher wrote that one possible cause was that the pilgrims no longer formed a psychological crowd. They no longer saw those around them as fellow pilgrims, but rather as competitors for seats on a train.

[I] Strangely, before this unfortunate incident, Reicher had interviewed a pilgrim who was asked to describe the feeling in the crowd at the station. "People think they are more powerful than you. They can push you around," she said. She was then asked to describe the feeling at the Kumbh: "People are concerned about you. They treat you in a polite manner." The stampede was an example of what can happen when the psychological cooperation of a crowd breaks down.

[J] Incidents such as the stampede are rare at the Kumbh, and this one is unlikely to deter pilgrims from attending the event in the future. The police will undoubtedly learn from this experience and make the station safer. But in crowds as large as those at the Kumbh, individuals must put their faith in the power of "psychological cooperation," as Stephen Reicher calls it. In other words, "Love thy² neighbor."



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¹ A **stampede** is a sudden rush of a large group of frightened people or animals.

² **Thy** is an old-fashioned word meaning *your*.

1. Which of the following statements is NOT true?
 - a. Every year, millions of Hindu pilgrims gather in Allahabad.
 - b. Reicher studies the health effects of the festival on individuals.
 - c. Every pilgrim must enter the Ganges River in bright orange robes.
 - d. The Kumbh Mela is the largest peaceful gathering in the world.

2. What is the purpose of paragraph D?
 - a. to show that professors of urban planning study the festival
 - b. to explain that the Kumbh tent city has 14 different areas
 - c. to define train stations and bridges as "hot spots"
 - d. to describe the organization of the Kumbh tent city

3. What did Reicher and his colleagues discover from their research?
 - a. Even the villagers who didn't attend the Kumbh benefited from it.
 - b. The pilgrims felt better during the festival, but the good effects didn't last.
 - c. The health of the villagers who did not attend the festival got worse.
 - d. The pilgrims experienced lasting improvement to their health.

4. Which of the following is an example of psychological cooperation?
 - a. The researchers returned to question both groups a month after the Kumbh had ended.
 - b. Millions calmly gather to bathe in the Ganges River; there is no pushing or panic.
 - c. 36 people died in a stampede at the Allahabad train station on February 10, 2013.
 - d. The Kumbh tent city covered more than 25 square kilometers divided into 14 areas.



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5. In the third sentence of paragraph J, what does *those at the Kumbh* refer to?

- crowds
- the police
- individuals
- human relationships

6. Which of the following is a fact, not a theory?

- Crowds help us form a sense of who we are in relation to other people.
- There are not very many incidents similar to the 2013 stampede.
- Pilgrims at the train station didn't see other people as fellow pilgrims.
- Crowds have a positive impact on people's health and well-being.

7. Use the context to choose the best definition for the underlined word.

It is before dawn on the second major bathing day of the festival, ...

- windy
- loud
- main

8. Use the context to choose the best definition for the underlined word.

There are unwilling children whose parents drag them in fully clothed.

- not trying to
- not wanting to
- not able to

9. Use the context to choose the best definition for the underlined word.

What our research shows is that, actually, crowds are critical to society.

- important
- dangerous
- harmless



10. Use the context to choose the best definition for the underlined word.

Incidents such as the stampede are rare at the Kumbh, and this one is unlikely to deter pilgrims from attending the event in the future.

- a. assist
- b. prevent
- c. predict

DIRECTIONS: Complete the sentences using the words in the box.

harmony	progresses	prospective	society	suspect
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11. He tried to create _____ at home by always agreeing with his parents.

12. Many universities invite _____ students to visit the campus for a day. That way, students can decide if they want to attend.

13. I didn't see who ate my sandwich, but I _____ that it was my dog. He looks guilty.

14. As the class _____, we will learn about more reading skills.

15. For the good of _____, helping people in need is an important goal we should focus on.

DIRECTIONS: Match each sentence with the statement (a-e) that describes it.

- a. It is *sacred*.
- b. It is *organized*.
- c. It is *evident*.
- d. It is his *faith*.
- e. He's a *participant*.

16. We have a plan for what we will do on the trip.

17. The cow is a holy animal in the Hindu religion.

18. It's obvious the two girls are twins; they look identical.



___ 19. He joined the game show to compete for the prize.

___ 20. His religion is very important to him