SOCRATES

Module G — Full Practice Exam · 105 minutes · 100 points

WRITTEN RECEPTION (60 points)

(ACCESS TO INFORMATION FROM WRITTEN TEXTS)

Read the text and then answer questions 1–8. In the multiple-choice questions, circle the number of the correct answer. In the other questions, follow the instructions.

THE SCIENCE OF CROWD BEHAVIOUR

I Anyone who has been swept along by a cheering crowd at a concert or a football match knows that being part of a large group can feel very different from being alone. Voices we would never raise on our own suddenly rise; movements we would never make become entirely natural. For a long time, crowds were regarded with deep suspicion, imagined as mindless mobs capable of turning ordinary people into something dangerous. In recent decades, however, scientists have begun to study crowd behaviour seriously, and the picture that has emerged is far more surprising, and far more reassuring, than the old fears ever suggested.

II One of the most persistent myths is that crowds are naturally prone to panic. Films often show terrified masses trampling one another in a desperate rush for the exits. Careful studies of real emergencies, nevertheless, tell a very different story. In most crises, people behave with remarkable calm and cooperation, frequently pausing to help strangers rather than escaping blindly. Far from dissolving into chaos, groups tend to organise themselves, share information and look after the weakest members. The genuine danger in many disasters is not human panic but poor design, such as narrow doorways or unclear instructions that prevent people from moving safely.

III To understand how crowds move, researchers have borrowed ideas from physics. When thousands of individuals walk through a station or a stadium, their combined motion begins to resemble the flow of a liquid, forming lanes and currents that no single person has planned. Precisely because these patterns are broadly predictable, scientists can now build computer models that simulate how a crowd will behave in a given space. Whereas earlier planners relied largely on guesswork, engineers today can test a design and identify the dangerous points where a crush might occur, altering the layout long before the building is ever constructed.

IV Psychology plays an equally important role. People in a crowd do not lose their identity, as was once widely believed; instead, they often adopt a shared sense of belonging, thinking of themselves as part of a single group with common interests. This feeling of unity can explain why complete strangers help one another so readily during emergencies. It also, however, has a darker side, since a powerful sense of belonging can sometimes harden into

hostility towards a rival group. Understanding when a crowd becomes cooperative and when it turns aggressive is one of the central questions that researchers are still working hard to answer.

V The practical value of this science is already considerable. Organisers of large festivals, religious gatherings and sporting events increasingly rely on crowd specialists to keep enormous numbers of people safe. As cities grow and public events attract ever-larger audiences, the ability to predict and guide the movement of crowds is likely to become more important still. Far from being the mindless mob of popular imagination, a crowd emerges from this research as something intelligent and deeply human, capable of great kindness as well as occasional danger, and increasingly something that we can genuinely learn to understand.

QUESTIONS — PART I (60 points)

1. How has the scientific view of crowds changed, according to paragraph I?

i. Scientists have confirmed that crowds are mindless and dangerous.

ii. Scientists have gradually lost all interest in studying crowds.

iii. Scientists agree that crowds always behave exactly like individuals.

iv. Scientists now see crowd behaviour as more surprising and reassuring than old fears suggested.

(6 points)

2. According to paragraph II, how do people usually behave during real emergencies?

ANSWER:

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(7 points)

3. According to paragraph II, what is often the real cause of danger in disasters?

i. The natural tendency of people to panic and flee.

ii. Poor design, such as narrow doorways or unclear instructions.

iii. People stubbornly refusing to help one another.

iv. Crowds that are far too calm to move at all.

(7 points)

4. Paragraph III compares the movement of a large crowd to something from physics. COMPLETE: When thousands of people move together, their motion begins to resemble

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(7 points)

5. Paragraph III explains what engineers can now do before a building is constructed. COMPLETE: Using computer models, engineers can test a design and identify

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(7 points)

6. According to paragraph IV, why do complete strangers often help one another during emergencies?

ANSWER:

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(7 points)

7. According to paragraph IV, what is the darker side of a strong sense of belonging in a crowd?

ANSWER:

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(7 points)

8. Mark the TWO statements that are true according to the text.

- ☐ Event organisers increasingly rely on crowd specialists to keep people safe.
- ☐ The writer expects crowd science to become less important in the future.
- ☐ The research shows a crowd is simply the mindless mob of popular imagination.
- ☐ A crowd is capable of great kindness as well as occasional danger.
- ☐ Crowd specialists are no longer needed at large festivals.
- ☐ Public events are attracting ever-smaller audiences over time.

(2×6=12 points)

PART II — WRITTEN PRODUCTION (40 points)

9. *(40 points)*

Some people believe that very large public events, such as festivals and concerts, have become too crowded and dangerous, and that the number of people allowed to attend them should be strictly limited. Do you agree or disagree with this view? Write a composition stating and explaining your opinion. Write 120–140 words in English.

DRAFT / טיוטה

FINAL VERSION / גרסה סופית (120–140 words)

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