When Groups Change Us

Read group behavior closely, then explain what drives it.

P.7.4 "Explain the concepts of group dynamics, including groupthink, deindividuation, social loafing, group polarization, and the bystander effect."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB In paragraphs 2 and 3, underline one behavioral clue for each of the five group dynamics explained in paragraph 1. Write the matching term beside each clue.

A Fair Full of Decisions

1. People often act differently in a group than they do alone. Groupthink happens when a group's wish for agreement keeps members from testing a decision or voicing doubts. Group polarization happens when discussion pushes a group's shared starting view toward a more extreme version. Deindividuation means people feel less personally identifiable in a crowd and may ignore their usual limits. Social loafing occurs when individuals put in less effort because they expect others in the group to do the work. The bystander effect occurs when people are less likely to help someone in need if other witnesses are present.

2. At West Ridge High, a committee planned a Saturday street fair. The forecast called for lightning, but the chair announced, 'We all agree the outdoor stage is fine.' Several members privately worried about safety. No one challenged the plan because each feared slowing the meeting or upsetting friends. In another meeting, members began by mildly favoring a rule that would limit loud music after 9 p.m. As they repeated only reasons to restrict noise, they became more certain. By the end, they voted to ban all music at the fair, even quiet performances scheduled for the afternoon.

3. During the fair, students in identical mascot costumes surrounded a rival school's booth. Hidden by the costumes and the crowd, several shouted insults they said they would never say face to face. Later, eight volunteers were told to clear the litter together, with no assigned areas. Two picked up bags while others stood back, assuming someone else would finish. Near the exit, a visitor dropped a box, fell, and called for help. A dozen people noticed, but each looked toward the others and walked on. One person finally asked whether the visitor was hurt and called an adult.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why does the committee's response to the lightning forecast show groupthink rather than group polarization? Use a detail from the passage.

2. How did the music discussion show group polarization? Describe the group's starting view and its final decision.

3. Which group dynamic appears in the mascot-costume incident, and which appears during cleanup? Explain how the cause of each behavior differs.

4. How did the presence of other witnesses affect the response to the visitor who fell? Name and explain the group dynamic.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Invent a scene at a community garden in which two different group dynamics appear. In four sentences, show a concrete behavior for each dynamic and explain why each behavior fits.

When Groups Change Us

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

In paragraphs 2 and 3, underline one behavioral clue for each of the five group dynamics explained in paragraph 1. Write the matching term beside each clue. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why does the committee's response to the lightning forecast show groupthink rather than group polarization? Use a detail from the passage.	**Members kept their safety concerns to themselves to avoid disrupting agreement. The passage does not show their shared view becoming more extreme through discussion.**
2	How did the music discussion show group polarization? Describe the group's starting view and its final decision.	**Members first mildly favored limiting loud music after 9 p.m. After discussing reasons to restrict noise, they voted to ban all music at the fair.**
3	Which group dynamic appears in the mascot-costume incident, and which appears during cleanup? Explain how the cause of each behavior differs.	**The insults show deindividuation: costumes and the crowd made students feel less identifiable. The cleanup shows social loafing: some volunteers did less work because they expected others to finish.**
4	How did the presence of other witnesses affect the response to the visitor who fell? Name and explain the group dynamic.	**The bystander effect appears when witnesses look to one another instead of helping. With many people present, each may expect someone else to respond.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At a community garden, a planning team chose a costly sprinkler system even though several members privately doubted they could afford it. They stayed silent to appear united, showing groupthink. Later, members of a large anonymous group chat posted cruel comments about a neighbor's garden plot. Feeling hard to identify made them less restrained, showing deindividuation.

Accept other relevant clues from the passage when students explain the behavior, not just name the term. For Part 3, look for two distinct dynamics, concrete behaviors, and explanations that connect each behavior to its cause.