

## PART A - CHOICE ITEMS

### ACTIVITY 1

Read the text below and do the tasks that follow.

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## Kindness Can Have Unexpectedly Positive Consequences

By Amit Kumar



Scientists who study happiness know that being kind to others can improve well-being. Simple acts such as buying a cup of coffee for someone can boost a person's mood. Everyday life affords many opportunities for such actions, yet people do not always take advantage of them. In a set of studies published online, Nick Epley, a behavioral scientist at the University of Chicago, and I examined a possible explanation.

We found that people who perform random acts of kindness do not always realize how much of an impact they are having on another individual.

Across multiple experiments involving approximately 1,000 participants, people performed a random act of kindness – that is, an action done with the primary intention of making someone else (who isn't expecting the gesture) feel good. Those who perform such actions expect nothing in return.

From one experiment to the next, the specific acts of kindness varied. For instance, in one experiment, people wrote notes to friends and family “just because.” In another, they gave cupcakes away. Across these experiments, we asked the person who had acted with kindness to report their experience and predict their recipient's response.

Across our investigations, several robust patterns emerged. For one, both performers and recipients of the acts of kindness were in more positive moods than normal. For another, it was clear that performers undervalued their impact on the beneficiary of the act: recipients felt significantly better than the “kind actors” expected. The recipients also rated these acts as “bigger” than the people performing them did. Our work suggests that simply being part of a positive, prosocial interaction is meaningful regardless of the nature of the act of kindness. Surely, people understand that cupcakes can make folks feel good, but it turns out that cupcakes offered in kindness can make people feel surprisingly good. When someone is thinking primarily about the tasty treat they are giving away, they may not realize that the warmth of that action is an extra ingredient that can make the cupcake even sweeter.

Missing the importance of warmth may stand in the way of being kinder in daily life. People generally want to perform kind actions; but our data suggest that underestimating the impact of one's actions may reduce the likelihood of kindness. If people undervalue this impact, they might not bother to carry out these warm, prosocial behaviors. Given that these warm gestures can enhance our own mood and brighten the day of another person, why not choose kindness when we can?

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### ATTENTION

- Mark your answers on Answer Sheet 1 [ΑΠΑΝΤΗΤΙΚΟ ΕΝΤΥΠΟ 1].
- You have **120 minutes** to complete this part of the exam.
- Provide a single answer for each item.

**1.1 Choose the best answers (A, B, or C) for items 1a-5a from the text above.**

- 1a.** The overall aim of this article is to  
**A.** encourage people to show kindness.      **B.** explain why people like acts of kindness.      **C.** support research on kindness.
- 2a.** As explained in the article, a random act of kindness primarily aims to  
**A.** make people aware of antisocial behaviour.      **B.** have a positive effect on people.      **C.** benefit the person who performs it.
- 3a.** The author and his co-researcher studied the response to acts of kindness performed on  
**A.** people study participants knew.      **B.** human beings and animals alike.      **C.** family members and neighbours.
- 4a.** The pleasure of a treat offered in kindness  
**A.** is proportionate to the intensity of the act.      **B.** is greater than the treat offered.      **C.** is less embarrassing for the receiver.
- 5a.** According to the author, if you do not fully understand the value of acts of kindness, you may  
**A.** not perform them as often as you'd like to.      **B.** perform them only for your own people.      **C.** not feel happy when you perform them.

**1.2 Decide what the underlined words mean. Choose the best option (A, B, or C) for items 6a-10a.**

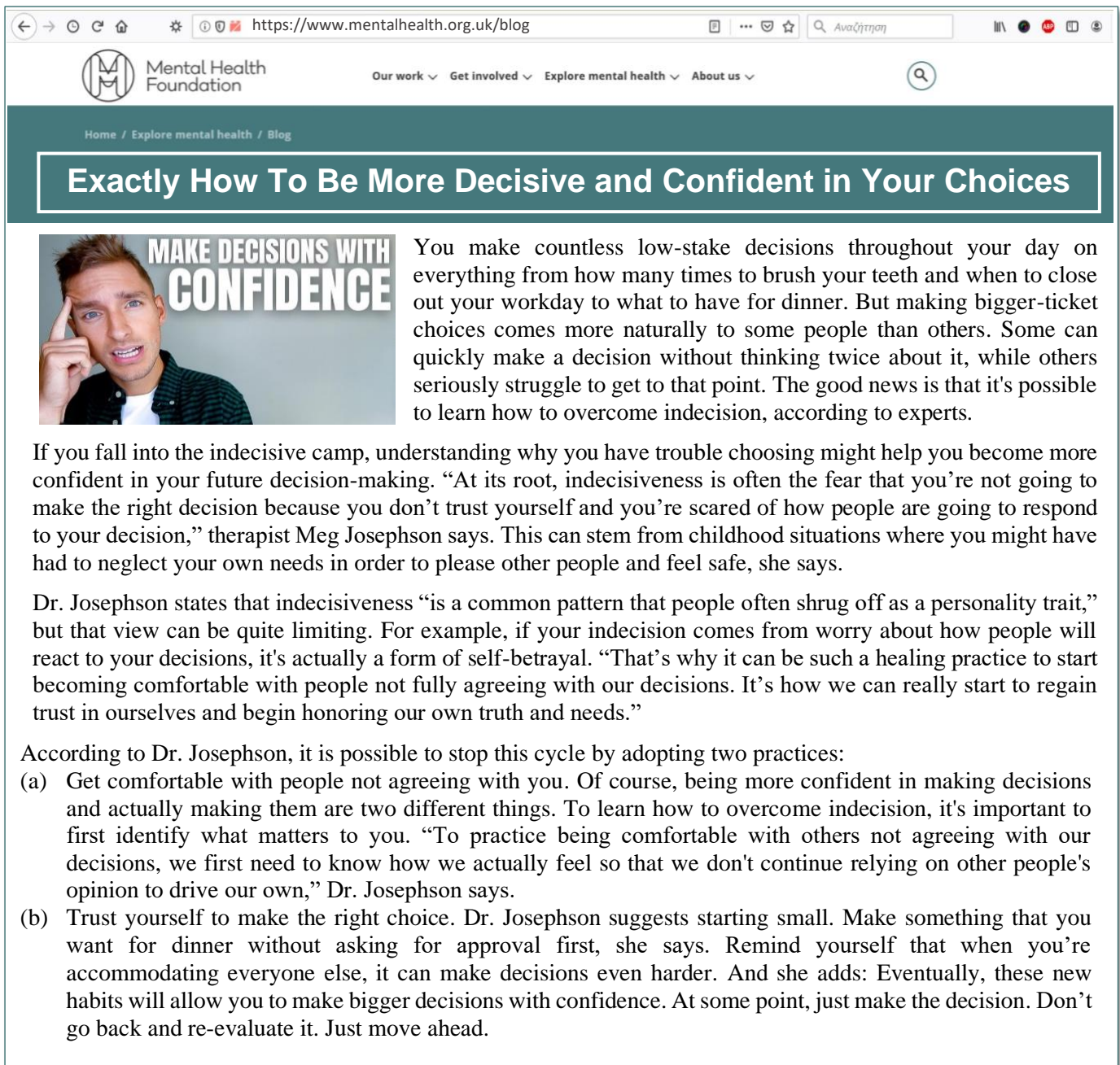
**MEANING IN CONTEXT**

**WHAT DO THE UNDERLINED WORDS FROM THE TEXT MEAN?**

- 6a.** Simple acts such as buying a cup of coffee for someone can boost a person's mood.  
**A.** increase their temper.      **B.** lift their spirits.      **C.** provide assistance.
- 7a.** Everyday life affords many opportunities for such actions, yet people do not always take advantage of them.  
**A.** bears projections      **B.** gives breaks      **C.** offers chances
- 8a.** Those who perform such actions [of kindness] expect nothing in return.  
**A.** do not envisage any revenge.      **B.** do not anticipate they'll be paid back.      **C.** do not think there is a point of return.
- 9a.** Our work suggests that simply being part of a positive, prosocial interaction is meaningful regardless of the nature of the act of kindness.  
**A.** performing constructive acts of communication      **B.** socializing in ways that are proactive      **C.** partaking in affirmative social action
- 10a.** If people undervalue this impact, they might not bother to carry out these warm, prosocial behaviours.  
**A.** take the trouble to adopt      **B.** want to go ahead with      **C.** wish to bring about

**ACTIVITY 2**

Read the text and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 11a-15a.



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/blog>. The page header includes the Mental Health Foundation logo and navigation links: 'Our work', 'Get involved', 'Explore mental health', and 'About us'. The main heading of the article is 'Exactly How To Be More Decisive and Confident in Your Choices'. Below the heading is a photo of a man with the text 'MAKE DECISIONS WITH CONFIDENCE'. The article text discusses the challenges of indecision and offers advice from Dr. Meg Josephson. It mentions that indecision can stem from childhood experiences and that it's possible to overcome it by practicing decision-making and trusting oneself.

**MAKE DECISIONS WITH CONFIDENCE**

You make countless low-stake decisions throughout your day on everything from how many times to brush your teeth and when to close out your workday to what to have for dinner. But making bigger-ticket choices comes more naturally to some people than others. Some can quickly make a decision without thinking twice about it, while others seriously struggle to get to that point. The good news is that it's possible to learn how to overcome indecision, according to experts.

If you fall into the indecisive camp, understanding why you have trouble choosing might help you become more confident in your future decision-making. "At its root, indecisiveness is often the fear that you're not going to make the right decision because you don't trust yourself and you're scared of how people are going to respond to your decision," therapist Meg Josephson says. This can stem from childhood situations where you might have had to neglect your own needs in order to please other people and feel safe, she says.

Dr. Josephson states that indecisiveness "is a common pattern that people often shrug off as a personality trait," but that view can be quite limiting. For example, if your indecision comes from worry about how people will react to your decisions, it's actually a form of self-betrayal. "That's why it can be such a healing practice to start becoming comfortable with people not fully agreeing with our decisions. It's how we can really start to regain trust in ourselves and begin honoring our own truth and needs."

According to Dr. Josephson, it is possible to stop this cycle by adopting two practices:

- Get comfortable with people not agreeing with you. Of course, being more confident in making decisions and actually making them are two different things. To learn how to overcome indecision, it's important to first identify what matters to you. "To practice being comfortable with others not agreeing with our decisions, we first need to know how we actually feel so that we don't continue relying on other people's opinion to drive our own," Dr. Josephson says.
- Trust yourself to make the right choice. Dr. Josephson suggests starting small. Make something that you want for dinner without asking for approval first, she says. Remind yourself that when you're accommodating everyone else, it can make decisions even harder. And she adds: Eventually, these new habits will allow you to make bigger decisions with confidence. At some point, just make the decision. Don't go back and re-evaluate it. Just move ahead.

- 11a. According to this article, some people
  - A. have difficulty deciding about trivial things.
  - B. find it hard to make important decisions.
  - C. can only make important decisions for others.
- 12a. In order to overcome indecision, people must
  - A. always rely on others for their input.
  - B. understand the reasons why they are indecisive.
  - C. learn to try harder to please others.
- 13a. According to Dr. Josephson, indecisiveness
  - A. is no more than a feature of a person's character.
  - B. relates to how much we value others.
  - C. indicates lack of trust in oneself.
- 14a. Dr. Josephson advises people to
  - A. accept that others might disagree with their decisions.
  - B. always agree with other people's decisions.
  - C. discuss their feelings with others.
- 15a. According to Dr. Josephson, fighting indecision
  - A. involves pleasing others to get their approval.
  - B. starts with making minor decisions on your own.
  - C. involves re-assessment of past decisions.

### ACTIVITY 3

Read the text below and decide if items 16a-20a are A (True), B (False), or C (Not Stated).

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# Rethinking Climate Solutions With Activist Vanessa Nakate

**Focusing on the most impactful fix of all: Educating young women**

Since Vanessa Nakate was a young child in Uganda, she did whatever she could to learn as much as she could—even sneaking out of the house to attend nursery school before she was old enough to attend. Since then, her passion for education has only grown, and she has become a globally recognized climate justice activist and public speaker, one who centers her approach around the seemingly simple, quietly powerful action of educating girls. She explains:

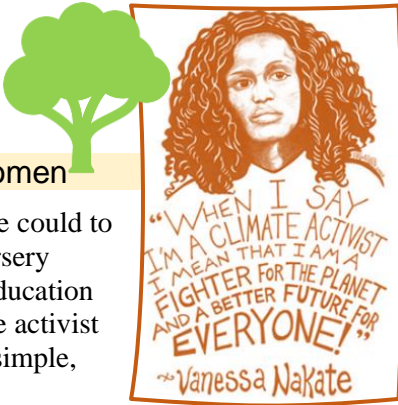
“It’s because I’ve benefited from education that I’m so passionate about it. But it also happens that girls’ education is a crucial way to address the climate crisis and ensure a more just world. So, why aren’t we talking about educating girls and acting on this policy more?”

“Over 50 million girls in the region are missing out on receiving an upper secondary school education. If they had the chance, many of these young women could be teachers, lawyers, doctors, members of parliament, or climate scientists.”

“Decades of research has found that girls who graduate from high school are healthier, have more economic opportunities, and, crucially, bear fewer children over the course of their lives. They’re also more likely to make sure that their kids, including their daughters, are educated too.”

“Social media is an amazing tool for organizing, sharing information, and encouraging solidarity among climate activists around the world. But social media has also been a magnet for bullying, shaming, disinformation, and even for inciting violence. What’s more, research by Amnesty International, among others, has found that women, and especially women of color, receive much more harassment and abuse on social media than men. Black women, according to the research, were 84 percent more likely to be mentioned in ‘abusive or problematic’ tweets than white women.”

“Although the vicious cycle of climate change and violence toward women and girls is a dire problem in the Global South, it’s not uncommon in the Global North either. The disruptions, job losses, illness, stress, and enforced togetherness brought about by the Covid pandemic have increased the instances of gender-based violence. UN Women calls this the ‘shadow pandemic.’”



STATEMENTS		A	B	C
		TRUE	FALSE	NOT STATED
16a.	Vanessa Makate believes that climate crisis can be faced effectively through girls' education.			
17a.	In Uganda, only a few thousand girls study to be lawyers or doctors.			
18a.	Educated women will probably make certain that only their daughters receive education.			
19a.	According to the text, women of colour receive more abuse on social media than climate activists.			
20a.	According to Vanessa, the Covid pandemic is responsible for the increase of violence against women.			

### ACTIVITY 4

Choose the best option (A-F) to complete items 21a-25a. Use each option only once. There is one option you do not need.

A.	experience	B.	assistance	C.	agreement
D.	expression	E.	digression	F.	participation

**What We Eat and Enjoy Tells Us About Ourselves**

By Jehanne Dubrow

In my family, we have a saying: “Taste this and tell me if I like it.” True, it’s a silly (21a) \_\_\_\_\_, one that denies the intimate, personal nature of taste. You and I may take a forkful from the same slice of birthday cake, but my experience of the icing dissolving on my tongue will be entirely my own. We may concur that the dessert is delicious.

But (22a) \_\_\_\_\_ ends with our consensus to use the same adjective. *Yum*, we both exclaim. Beyond that, we can’t really know what makes the taste so delightful to the other. I might decide it’s the crunch of the rainbowed sprinkles. You might determine it’s the crumbling lightness of the cake’s buttery interior. We would both be right.

In his book *Food Philosophy: An Introduction*, scholar David M. Kaplan points to the challenge of understanding our sense of taste. The way we engage with food is wildly subjective. In fact, the tastes our minds perceive begin in our bodies. And our bodies can only understand the tastes they take in with the (23a) \_\_\_\_\_ of our interpretative, meaning-making minds.

Of the five senses, taste is the one that requires of us the most active (24a) \_\_\_\_\_. Throughout the day, smells enter our noses without our permission. We often see and hear what we would prefer to avoid. We are constantly touched without noticing the contact: the air against our skin, the floor against the soles of our feet, the steering wheel against our palms. But things are different with taste.

Once we move beyond infancy, we begin to make our own decisions about the foods we are offered. With each new taste, we discover a little more about what we love or loathe. But to slice through the mysteries of taste—how it works on or in us—it’s not enough to address our (25a) \_\_\_\_\_ of the sense in lyric terms: the dry tannins of a red grape, the unexpected salt in a piece of licorice, the foggy intersection of fruit and acid in a glass of apple cider vinegar. We must also speak about the science of taste. We must talk about biology, ecology, and biochemistry.

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## ACTIVITY 5

**5.1 Read the first extract of a text on “Ideas about Love in the 18th Century” and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 26a-28a.**

- 26a.** This text refers mainly to  
**A.** a work of science fiction.      **B.** the tragedy of love.      **C.** the heroine of a novel.
- 27a.** Lanah Sawyer  
**A.** was not a fictional character.      **B.** was the topic of various publications.      **C.** met Susanna Rowson in New York.
- 28a.** Tales about young women of no means marrying into fame and fortune were  
**A.** not young women’s fantasy but their genuine ambition.      **B.** a real part of the popular imagination.      **C.** pipedreams that usually ended in tragedy.

### Extract 1

In 1793 Manhattan, where 17-year-old Lanah Sawyer met the man who called himself lawyer Smith, the publications were full of accounts of young women seduced by gentlemen, enticed into giving up their innocence, and then abandoned to the harsh fate of fallen women. The most popular novel of the era, “Susanna Rowson’s *Charlotte Temple: A Tale of Truth*” (1791), was set during Lanah’s childhood in Revolutionary New York and was supposedly based on real events.



Fifteen-year-old Charlotte was enticed into eloping with a dashing officer, only to find herself abandoned, scorned by respectable folk, and pregnant. She died giving birth in a miserable hovel, the home of a lowly servant who, alone among New Yorkers, recognized her inner virtue. In the city, the fictional heroine took on a surreal afterlife. At some point, in the hallowed cemetery surrounding Trinity Church on Broadway appeared a gravestone bearing her name, which, ever since, romantics have visited with flowers and tears.

Meanwhile, a series of old houses vied for the distinction of being the scene of the tragic heroine’s death. According to an 1826 newspaper report, when a shopkeeper at 22 Bowery Lane “discovered” that he occupied the “very house in which Charlotte Temple died,” swarms of visitors came to inspect the “venerable edifice.”

There were also tales in which love fought to overcome impediments to marriage with a rich, respectable man caused by a young woman’s lack of social rank or fortune. Indeed, during Lanah’s lifetime it had become increasingly common for young couples to insist on marrying for love, even when that caused conflicts with their families.

Such stories offered Lanah, and young women like her, a vision of an alternate world. They described a kind of man very different from those she knew. They lionized a model of marriage very different from the one she had observed growing up. Such stories may also have encouraged Lanah to imagine that a young lawyer, like Mr Smith who had asked her out, really might be interested in her.

**5.2 Read Extract 2 on the next page and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 29a-31a.**

- 29a.** Hone was Lanah’s  
**A.** family friend.      **B.** neighbourhood sweetheart.      **C.** married lover.
- 30a.** Hone happened to  
**A.** risk Lanah’s reputation.      **B.** know Lanah’s secret.      **C.** reveal Smith’s true identity.
- 31a.** Hone’s comments on Mr Smith were  
**A.** made out of jealousy.      **B.** made out of self-interest.      **C.** made out of concern.

## Extract 2

The next morning, Samuel Hone, a young baker who lived across the street, was anxious to speak with Lanah. Hone and his wife were close friends with Lanah's parents and fairly typical of the working families who predominated in the neighbourhood. At twenty-seven, Hone had been married for seven years and had a growing family. Neither particularly affluent nor desperately poor, Hone rented one half of a long, skinny parcel (owned by Lanah's aunt) that stretched along Gold Street. Toward Ann Street was a modest bake house where Hone and his family lived and worked.

Hone was about ten years younger than Lanah's mother and stepfather, who were in their late thirties, but he was old enough to see the seventeen-year-old through the eyes of an older brother. Hone had seen Lanah arrive home the evening before, had recognized the gentleman accompanying her, and was concerned. Soon, he got his chance to catch Lanah's attention. "What a smart Beau you have got", Hone observed. It was less a tribute to her powers of attraction than an expression of paternalistic concern, calling attention to the class difference between people like them and the man she had been with.

- "He is a lawyer Smith," Lanah offered, ignoring Hone's innuendo.
- "No, it was not," Hone insisted, "for it was Harry Bedlow."

Lanah knew the name. And she understood what her neighbour implied, because, for young women like Lanah Sawyer, the lure of love could so easily push caution aside.

Harry Bedlow was a man whose reputation preceded him. At the time, the city was really just a small town, only about forty thousand people, living within less than a mile of each other on the southern tip of Manhattan. Lanah did not know Harry Bedlow by sight, but she had heard enough about him to know that he was bad news. He was, she knew, "a very great rake."

For Lanah, the term "rake" for a man was no doubt familiar both from word of mouth and, probably, from novels and other published writing. In the cultural imagination of the time (and today's dictionary meaning), a rake is a man – especially one who is rich or with a high social position, who lives in an immoral way, especially having sex with a lot of women.

In the seduction stories of the day, the "rake" was a far cry from the reformable bad boys of modern romance novels. His characteristic mode was to target a virtuous young woman, win her trust under false pretenses, lead her into temptation, and leave her morally ruined. Sometimes, the rake ended up regretting the damage he caused—but only after it was too late. Often, as in the French novel "Les liaisons dangereuses" (1782), the rake took sadistic pleasure in his victim's suffering.



### 5.3 Read Extract 3 on the next page, and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 32a-33a.

32a. The rake

- A. was a fictional character.      B. operated in sly ways.      C. was a dangerous criminal.

33a. Lanah Sawyer was tricked by Harry Bedlow because she was

- A. unsophisticated.      B. unable to read his deceit.      C. a fool for love.

Extract 3

The figure of the rake haunted parents. Toward the end of the war, Abigail Adams cautioned a young cousin against the supposedly “reformed Rake” Royall Tyler—only to have him start courting her own daughter. Adams’s objection to the match was vindicated a few years later when Tyler published *The Contrast*, a play that suggested that he had not really outgrown his moral dissipation.

The danger represented by a rake was very different from that posed by the lewd Frenchmen who had harassed Lanah on Broadway the previous week. Their menace was overt. Their threat, at its most extreme, was an imminent assault. The rake represented a hidden danger: he operated by stealth, unobtrusively selecting his target, dissembling his true motives, professing false regard, using his arts to engender trust and render his victim emotionally vulnerable.

Lanah rejected Hone’s suggestion that the man who had escorted her home the previous night was actually the notorious rake Harry Bedlow. Nothing in lawyer Smith’s behaviour so far had done anything to disrupt her image of him as a gallant gentleman whose attentions were as flattering as they were unexpected.



5.4 Read Extract 4 and choose the best answer (A, B, or C) for items 34a-35a.

34a. According to the extract, “reading” the characters of people we don’t know can be

- A. a risky ‘business’. B. somewhat amusing. C. awkward for those involved.

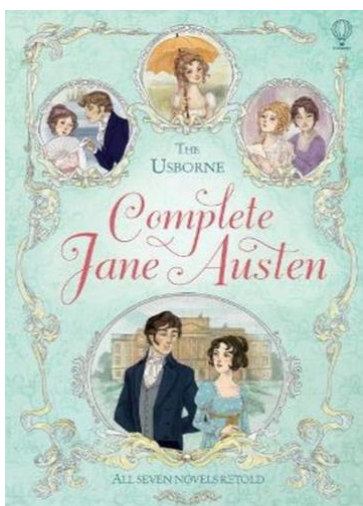
35a. Not being able to ‘read’ someone and judge them by appearance at first glance is

- A. a subject never brought up in novels. B. an appealing quality of female characters in novels. C. an issue in the novel “Pride and Prejudice”.

Extract 4

Reading the character of a stranger is always a challenge—and one that was especially acute in emerging modern cities like New York. Since the war, the city’s population had doubled, and it would double again and again in the coming decades as immigrants from near and far sought out new opportunities and, sometimes, new identities.

When one of Margaret Livingston’s sons left the family manor up the Hudson River Valley in 1795, she reminded him to send back reports about the people he would encounter in the city. It would amuse those left behind, she indicated, to relive his efforts to “read” the characters of strangers.



The amusement offered by novels was much the same. The proliferation of fictional stories centered on heroines, heroes, and villains encouraged readers of all ranks to think of themselves—and others—as characters, as protagonists with coherent, though often obscure, personalities. The most enduringly famous novel written during this period, Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice* which was originally drafted in the mid-1790s, focuses precisely on the danger of misreading strangers. Initial snap judgments almost thwart the romance that eventually develops between Elizabeth Bennet and Fitzwilliam Darcy. Meanwhile, the alluring figure of George Wickham is a classic example of how a rake, posing as a gallant officer, could threaten the welfare of an entire family by seducing a susceptible sixteen-year-old. That’s why Austen initially called the book *First Impressions*.



## ACTIVITY 6

Choose the best option (A-F) to complete items 36a-40a. Use each option only once. There is one option you do not need.

A	thrive	B	range	C	foster
D	defame	E	require	F	uplift

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# Why COMMUNITY matters so much



As social creatures, humans need interpersonal contact to survive. These connections (36a) \_\_\_\_\_ from your inner circle of family and close friends to the outer rungs of your social network — other pet parents at the dog park, for example — and it's important to have this variety. "To try and count on one person to fill all of your emotional and psychological needs is not a good thing," says Gillian Sandstrom, a senior lecturer in psychology at the University of Sussex. "There's research showing that you (37a) \_\_\_\_\_ more when you have lots of people to fill up various emotional needs." Becoming a member of communities helps build this social diversity. However, finding community is much different from just making friends.

According to clinical and community psychologist David McMillan, a community is defined by four criteria: membership, influence, integration and fulfillment of needs, and shared emotional connection. While a community can consist of pairs or small groups of friends (and help (38a) \_\_\_\_\_ those connections) community members don't necessarily need to be friends.

Fellow community members can lend a hand in unique and surprising ways. A neighbour can lend you the oddly specific pan you need to try a new recipe. An older person in your book club may have valuable insight into how to handle a conflict with your in-laws. You could find the résumé proofreader you've been looking for in another student in your cooking class. Think of it as a group of people who (39a) \_\_\_\_\_ one another and form a safety net for all of life's moments.

While many communities exist online, there must be an element of reciprocity; all parties contributing information and support equally for the group to develop. Finding and becoming ingrained in a community doesn't need to be an arduous task, but it does (40a) \_\_\_\_\_ time and self-reflection.

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## ACTIVITY 7

Read the text below and choose the best answer (A, B or C) for the items that follow (41a-45a).

MODERN PSYCHOLOGY MAGAZINE

May, 2023

# The Art of Being Alone



At a moment in time when many people are facing unprecedented amounts of time alone, it's a good idea for us to pause and consider what it takes to turn difficult loneliness into enriching solitude. We are social creatures, and a sustained lack of satisfying relationships carries heavy costs for our mental and physical health. But when we are forced to spend more time alone than we might wish, there are ways we can compensate and find a fruitful sense of connection and fulfillment. One way to achieve this is by using our loneliness as a springboard for creativity.

By transmuting their experience into something beautiful, isolated individuals throughout history have managed to substitute the sense of community they might have otherwise found in relationships with their creative outputs. The artist Edward Hopper (1882–1967) is known for his paintings of American cityscapes inhabited by figures who seem to embody a vision of loneliness. His paintings tend to be populated by people alone, or in uneasy, uncommunicative groupings of twos and threes, fastened into poses indicative of distress. Hopper's images of uneasy individuals are often separated from the viewer by a window or some other barrier. But there's something else too; the way a feeling of separation, of being walled off, combines with a sense of near unbearable exposure.

Hopper roamed the city at night, sketching scenes that caught his eye. This perspective meant that the viewer of his paintings finds themselves most often in the position of an observer detached from the scene in front of them. Hopper's work shows us that one way to make friends with loneliness is to create work that explores and examines it. This not only offers a way to connect with those enduring the same experience but also turns isolation into creative material and robs it of some of its sting.

When we face loneliness in our lives, it is not always possible or even appropriate to deal with it by rushing to fill our lives with people. Sometimes we do not have that option; sometimes we first just need to work through that feeling. One way we can embrace our loneliness is by turning to the art of others who have inhabited that same lonely city, drawing solace and inspiration from their creations. We can use that as inspiration in our own creative pursuits which can help us work through difficult, and lonely, times.

- 41a. This article concerns people who
- A. experience loneliness against their will.
  - B. choose to live on their own.
  - C. are unable to form genuine relationships.
- 42a. The people populating Hopper's paintings appear to be
- A. secluded.
  - B. vibrant.
  - C. assertive.
- 43a. Viewers of Hopper's paintings often feel that they are
- A. a real part of the depicted scene.
  - B. familiar with the depicted scene.
  - C. only looking at the depicted scene from afar.
- 44a. Befriending loneliness makes it possible for people to
- A. socialize with other lonely people.
  - B. turn loneliness into a less painful experience.
  - C. identify other lonely people when they see them.
- 45a. The article suggests that loneliness
- A. may affect people who lead a busy life.
  - B. is found only in urban environments.
  - C. can be the driving force behind many art creations.

## ACTIVITY 8

Read the text and match each underlined word (items 46a-50a) with a synonym (options A-H). There are three options you do not need.

A.	implication	B.	consideration	C.	mention	D.	appreciation
E.	evaluation	F.	feel	G.	citation	H.	importance

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## The Elusive Origin of Zero

### Who decided that nothing should be something?

By Shaharir bin Mohamad Zain and Frank Swetz


The tracing of zero's heritage has been elusive. For a country to be able to claim the number's origin would provide a **(46a)** sense of ownership and determine a source of great nationalistic pride.

Throughout the 20th century, this ownership rested in India. That's where an inscription was discovered, holding the number "0" in reference to land measurement inside a temple in the central Indian city of Gwalior. However, a series of stones, in what is now Sumatra, casts India's ownership of nothingness in doubt, and several investigators agree that the first **(47a)** reference of zero was likely on a set of stones found on the island.

In 1891 a French archaeological team uncovered a stone stele near the village of Sambor on the banks of the Mekong River, in what was then French Indochina, later to become Cambodia. The stone bore a Khmer epigraphic inscription that included the date for the Khmer year 605. Political upheavals precluded further scholarly examination of this stone, and it would not be until the 20th century that another Western scholar took up this task. Georges Cœdès concluded that the numeration system used in the inscribed date, 605, was decimal in nature and that the central glyph was an empty placeholder, a zero. This **(48a)** assessment meant that 605, referencing a year, singled out the earliest known and documented zero. So, now the preeminent honor of claiming zero rested with Cambodia.

In World War II, people forgot about the Sambor stone, which was lost. Almost a century later, a popular science writer, Amir Aczel, tried to find the missing stone and authenticate its existence and **(49a)** significance. He found it in an archaeological warehouse, near the ancient Khmer ruins of Angkor Wat. Aczel documented his quest and adventures in a book, [Finding Zero](#), published in 2015. His testimony affirmed the existence of the zero and endowed its elusive heritage to Cambodia.

While the issue requires more **(50a)** deliberation and historical examination, this discovery of a possible nothingness symbol is intriguing. Could zero have been conceptually conceived of and utilized in an ancient and barely known Southeast Asian society? Did the use of zero spread from this region westward into India and finally into Europe? These questions require further investigation, but, as we see, the history of mathematics offers many mysteries that can puzzle and amaze its disciples.



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## PART B - SHORT ANSWERS

**ACTIVITY 1**

Fill in gaps 1b-5b with a word which, combined with “do”, forms an idiomatic expression, and creates meaning in the statements below.

1b	Nuclear weapons are the most inhumane and indiscriminate weapons ever created. They violate international law, cause severe environmental damage, undermine national and global security, and divert vast public resources away from meeting human needs. We must all campaign against them so that we <b>do</b> _____ with them before it is too late. They must be eliminated urgently.
2b	It won't <b>do</b> him any _____ if he avoids the press and does not clearly state his position on the issue. In fact, ambiguity is costing him a great deal. Polls are down by 15% already!
3b	We urge the members of the sub-committee to do their utmost, putting pressure on Council of Europe's Commissioner, Dunja Mijatović, to <b>do</b> her _____. After all, her role is to keep states alert to the problems that may restrict people's ability to enjoy their rights, and to help them find solutions to improve human rights protection and implementation.
4b	Unfortunately, this resolution is not sufficient to <b>do</b> _____ to all the important aspects of this subject. It is only fair and therefore imperative that the committee develops a well-worked out execution plan.
5b	I refuse to think that we <b>did</b> all this in _____. We can't let our efforts go to waste! There is still time to reverse a bad situation to our advantage.

**ACTIVITY 2**

Put the jumbled words in Column B in the correct order to complete statements 6b-10b in Column A.

COLUMN A		COLUMN B
6b.	<b>Extract from an article in <i>Guardian</i></b> Once people thought the Amazon was a near-uninhabited rainforest before the Europeans turned up, but researchers say they have found new evidence that it _____ of activity and home to millions of people living in small villages.	fact was human a hive in
7b.	<b>Extract from an article in <i>The Independent</i></b> Idris Elba is back as John Luther for the first time since 2019 for a new film, a relentless crime thriller that provides Elba with his best role in years; he really _____ the morally compromised detective.	better is never as than
8b.	<b>Extract from an article in <i>indy100</i></b> Despite the many deaths that involve firearms in America, US gun laws are pretty relaxed compared to other countries. Which makes _____ that the country has had no issue banning other things that seem far less harmful than guns.	unusual it more the all
9b.	<b>Extract from an article in <i>Babbal Magazine</i></b> My grandmother, _____, is not renowned for her memory. She has been known to spend time searching for her glasses only to discover them in the fridge. So why does she remember the little French she learned as a child so clearly?	woman she that wonderful is
10b.	<b>Extract from an article in <i>Live Science</i></b> On average, people report more than 4,000 individual thoughts per day, some of which feel disturbing. We can allow these thoughts to just be in our minds, not hold _____ and not trying to fight them.	tightly them on to too



### ACTIVITY 3

Fill in the missing words (11b-15b) in the text below. The first letter of each word is provided, and the dashes correspond to the missing letters.

#### Deaf and Blind Communities May Be Creating a New Language of Touch



John Lee Clark comes from a Deaf family—his father and brother are Deaf-Blind, his mother and sister are Deaf and sighted—and the family has communicated in American Sign Language (or A.S.L.) for generations. When in the third grade, Clark began a bilingual Deaf program where students were grouped on the basis of their (11b) a \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ to read English, a second language that Clark accessed only in print.

When he was 12, Clark began attending a residential Deaf school, but, around this time, he began to go blind. In high school, Clark stopped trying to follow A.S.L. visually and began using tactile reception, feeling (12b) w \_ \_ \_ \_ with his hands.

In 2013, Clark attended a training in Protactile, a new movement that was encouraging DeafBlind people to reject the stigma, in American culture, against touch, which often leaves them cut off from the (13b) w \_ \_ \_ \_ around them. According to Protactile's principles, rather than waiting for an interpreter to tell her about the apples available at the grocery store, a Deaf-Blind person should plunge her hands into the produce bins. After the training, Clark noticed changes in his household. He and Adrean began using a Protactile principle called co-presence: if she came into a room, she would brush him to let him know that she was there.

Before, they'd sit around the table, and whoever sat next to Clark interpreted what the (14b) r \_ \_ \_ of the family said. Afterward, they began eating in informal clusters, allowing for tactile group conversations.

In the years since, Protactile has spread across the country. Today, most Deaf-Blind adults have heard of Protactile's call to place touch at the center of their lives. Several linguists have come to believe that Protactile is developing into its own language, with words and grammatical structures. "It's an exciting time for the Deaf-Blind," they say. "The single most (15b) i \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ development in Deaf-Blind history is in full swing."

### ACTIVITY 4

Find a synonym for each underlined item 16b-20b below.

#### Love Is Biological Bribery

By Brian Gallagher



The main reason love evolved was to reward us for taking part in relationships, (16b) critical to our survival. That goes for our reproductive partners, children, and extending to our friends. Humans are highly cooperative because we have to be. A species will be solitary unless it absolutely has to cooperate with somebody else. And that's fine, except it's incredibly stressful. You have to spend a hell of a lot of time (17b) monitoring everybody else's behavior, making sure you're spotting those people who are trying to cheat you or steal from you.

And the way evolution made sure we cooperate was to come up with chemical bribery. At the basis of love are four neurochemicals. Each has a different role but together they (18b) motivate us or give us confidence to go into social relationships. Ultimately, we get addicted to those chemicals. We get this hit of joy, of euphoria, of reward when we interact with the people important to our survival. It's biological bribery. It's like if I give my kids a sweet because they've done something good, which is bad parenting, but it works. The only point of evolution is to pass genes down. This form of bribery is controlling us to make sure we do that. It's a benign control. For most people, most of the time, the experience is lovely and warming and beneficial in terms of health. Unfortunately, our biology to seek love, (19b) crave love, find love, keep love, is a weakness. That visceral need can be exploited, it can be used to make us do things we don't necessarily want to do. And that's the cost of love. It can be used to manipulate or abuse or (20b) coerce us. That's what separates us from the animals. Animals don't use love to manipulate others. We do.

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