

Reading Passage

Cultural growth in the twenty-first century has heightened the emphasis on interpersonal communication in an intercultural setting. As our world grows, expands and becomes increasingly more interconnected by various technological advances, the need for effective interpersonal communication among differing cultures has become quite clear. Due to the advancement of technology in today's world, a world in which some businesspeople are involved in transactions with other businesspeople in faraway countries, the call for knowledge of intercultural communication within this setting has become a reality. Interpersonal communication is a form of communication that involves a small number of people who can interact exclusively with one another and who therefore have the ability to both adapt their messages specifically for those others and to obtain immediate interpretations from them. Although interpersonal communication is usually thought of as being performed in small, centralized groups, a need to broaden these groups and bring about a general feeling of cultural awareness has become apparent. To a certain degree, all communication could be called interpersonal, as it occurs between two or more people. However, it is useful and practical to restrict the definition to distinguish those relationships that involve a relatively small group of people, such as couples, families, friends, workgroups, and even classroom groups from those involving much larger numbers of people, as would occur in public rallies or among massive television audiences. Unlike other forms of communication, interpersonal communication involves person-to-person interactions. Additionally, the perception that a social bond has developed between the interacting members, however tenuous and temporary it may seem, is also much more likely.

Questions

1. Of the following phrases, which provides the most appropriate main idea for the passage?
 - a. All communication is interpersonal, and knowing how to effectively communicate with people in foreign countries is necessary to attain economic success.
 - b. Effective interpersonal communication skills are becoming increasingly important in response to the interconnected nature of worldwide business.
 - c. When business people from different countries communicate efficiently, social bonds develop between the interacting members.
 - d. The advancement of technology in the last 15 years has fostered a social atmosphere on a global scale not previously imagined.
 - e. Interpersonal communication should be limited to small groups of people such as couples, families, friends, workgroups and classrooms.

 2. It can be inferred from the passage that which of the following statements is the author LEAST likely to agree with?
 - a. Interpersonal skills are important for camp counselors and for teachers and educators.
 - b. Having knowledge about the history of the country of the people with whom you are doing business is crucial in building a strong business relationship.
 - c. In today's business world, success can only be attained by rehearsing all potential interaction scenarios when traveling to visit foreign business partners for the first time.
 - d. The technological advances of the past twenty-five years have fostered in an era of unprecedented communication between foreign businesses.
 - e. Interpersonal communication is usually believed to exist on a small, centralized scale, but there are exceptions to this rule.
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3. Which of the following describes the organization of the passage?
- a. A central, main idea is presented, and the ensuing discussion investigates in more detail the cause and effect of the main idea.
 - b. A question is posed, and the ensuing examples enumerate possible explanations for the main idea.
 - c. A general theme is presented, followed by a series of questions and answers that aim to explain a commonly misunderstood phenomenon.
 - d. A statement is given, and the sociological and psychological analysis that constitutes the main body of the passage strives to dispute the original idea.
 - e. A model for the analysis of interpersonal skills is given, and the various features of that model are discussed and analyzed.

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