

Unit Ten: Peace and Conflict,

Lesson 1 - Lesson 2 What is Conflict?

Conflict can be described as a disagreement among groups or individuals characterized by antagonism and hostility. This is usually fueled by the opposition of one party to another in an attempt to reach an objective different from that of the other party. The elements involved in the conflict have varied sets of principles and values, thus allowing a conflict to arise.

Conflict can be defined in many ways but one of the simplest is that it pertains to the opposing ideas and actions of different entities, resulting in an antagonistic state. Conflict is an inevitable part of life. All of us possess our own opinions, ideas and sets of beliefs. We have our own ways of looking at things and we act according to what we think is proper. Hence, we often find ourselves in conflict in different scenarios; it may involve other individuals, groups of people, or a struggle within our own selves. Consequently, conflict influences our actions and decisions in one way or another.

Conflict comes naturally; the clashing of thoughts and ideas is a part of the human experience. It is true that it can be destructive if left uncontrolled. However, it shouldn't be seen as something that can only cause negative things to transpire. It is a way to come up with more meaningful realizations that can certainly be helpful to the individuals involved.

Conflict can be seen as an opportunity for learning and understanding our differences. We can all live harmoniously despite conflicts as long as we know how to responsibly manage these struggles.

Causes and Types of Conflict

According to an American psychologist, conflicts are basically of three types arising out of three different causes:

- a. Economic conflict:** Resources are limited, and so groups or individuals come into conflict with each other to possess as much of these resources as possible, thus bringing forth hostile behaviors among those involved.
- b. Value conflict:** It is concerned with the varied preferences and ideologies that people have as their principles. Conflicts driven by this factor are demonstrated in wars wherein separate parties have their separate sets of beliefs that they assert in an aggressive manner.
- c. Power conflict:** It occurs when the parties involved intend to maximize what influence they have in the social setting. Such a situation can happen among individuals, groups or even nations.

Conflicts are also classified into the four following types:

a. Interpersonal conflict: This type of conflict refers to a conflict between two individuals. This occurs typically because of differences among people. Apparently, it is a natural occurrence which can eventually help in personal growth or developing our relationships with others.

Intrapersonal conflict: It occurs within an individual. The experience takes place in the person's mind. Hence, it is a type of conflict that is psychological involving the individual's thoughts, values, principles and emotions.

Intragroup conflict: It is a type of conflict that happens among individuals within a team. It arises from interpersonal disagreements or differences in views and ideas. Within a team, conflict can be helpful in coming up with decisions which will eventually allow the members to reach their objectives as a team. However, if the

degree of conflict disrupts harmony among the members, then some serious guidance from a different party will be needed for it to be settled.

d. Intergroup conflict: It takes place when a misunderstanding arises among different teams within an organization. This is due to the varied sets of goals and interests of these different groups. In addition, competition also contributes to intergroup conflict.

A Choose the correct answer from the alternatives:

1x5=5

(a) The expression “Conflict” implies-----

- i. Mismanagement ii. Misunderstanding iii. Disagreement iv. Disbelief

(b) The word “ Hostility” mentioned in the passage means -----

- i. Friendliness ii. Enmity iii. Cooperation iv. Greed

(c) what does the word “Transpire” means-----

- i. to begin ii. to happen iii. to end iv. to start

(d) The word “Disrupt” could be replaced by-----

- i. interrupt ii. separate iii. rend iv. shatter

(e) The word “ Varied” means-----

- i. modification ii. innovative iii. diverse iv. knowledge

B. Answer the following Question:

2x5=10

- What is conflict?
- How does a conflict arise?
- What do all of us possess?
- What are influenced by conflict?
- How do we live harmoniously despite conflict?

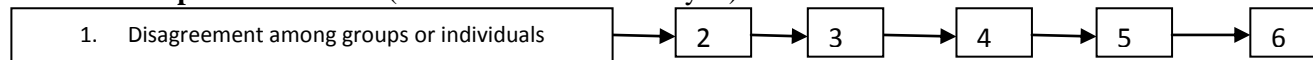
2. Read the passage and complete the table below with the given information.

1x10=10

Who/what	Event	What/Whom	Why/ How/ When/Where
C onflict	(i)-----	Of	Three types
(ii)-----	Come into conflict with	(iii)-----	To possess unlimited resource out of limited resource
This illogical desire to possess resources	(iv)-----	Hostile behaviours	(v)-----
(vi)-----	concerned	(vii)-----	And (viii)-----
Power conflict	Can happen	Among individuals	Groups or even (ix)-----
Conflicts (X)-----		interpersonal	conflict

Or

Based on your reading of the Passage below, make short notes in each of the boxes in the flow-chart showing the causes and aspects of conflict. (No. 1 has been done for you)



3. Summarize the text.

10