

Social bullying is a deliberate, repetitive and aggressive social behavior intended to insult or harm another individual or group. In school, ridiculing a child's clothes, academic achievements, race or culture are **examples** of behaviors a bully can exhibit to gain power over others. *Such behaviors* can also be observed in adults. Socially sabotaging others by spreading rumors, exerting control over others and constantly telling them what to do to cause humiliation and are common examples. Social bullying is usually caused by a combination of factors. **Generally**, the bully lacks empathy for his targeted individual. **In some cases**, he learns this behavior from observing others, or he may have been the victim himself earlier in life. Jealousy is **another cause**, whereby the bully feels threatened by others' achievements. **The negative consequences of social bullying can be extensive.** *For instance*, victims often suffer from depression, social isolation, and low self-esteem and some even commit homicidal acts or turn to suicide. Putting an end to social bullying requires a group effort, **so** those who observe the behavior, such as teachers, co-workers, and family members must step in at once since curbing the behavior of the bully is most effective as soon as it occurs. *Otherwise, it becomes more difficult once the bully finds supporters and gains a greater degree of social power.*

1. Which of the following is true according to the passage?

- A) Victims of social bullying must seek expert advice as soon as possible.
- B) Negative consequences of social bullying do not usually last into adulthood.
- C) There are various reasons as to why some individuals become bullies.
- D) Some forms of bullying have more damaging effects than others.
- E) Bullies may sometimes exhibit aggressive behaviors unintentionally.

2. It is clearly stated in the passage that ----.

- A) it is often difficult to identify the reasons why bullies exhibit aggressive attitudes
- B) most bullies tend to target individuals with a weak personality
- C) social bullying can vary from one culture to another
- D) school children are more inclined to exhibit aggressive social behaviors compared to adults
- E) victims of social bullying have the tendency to kill themselves or others

3. It can be understood from the passage that ----.

- A) effective solutions to bullying start with identifying why it is happening
- B) even the fear of being bullied can cause some individuals to lose their self-confidence
- C) immediate and cooperative action to stop bullying is regarded as the most successful method
- D) social bullying is a widespread problem in schools all over the world
- E) hurtful teasing is the most prevalent of all bullying behaviors experienced by students

Which of the following statements can be answered from the passage?

- A) Schools are the most suitable environments for social bullying to occur
- B) Adults are more capable of coping with social bullying compared to children
- C) Gaining superiority over others is one of the motives behind bullying
- D) Victims of social bullying are destined to become the bullies themselves in the future
- E) Bullying occurs due to the school climate that supports negative interpersonal relationships

Bonus Question 1 The word **exerting** is closest in meaning to ----.

- A) imposing B) insisting C) regaining D) restricting E) losing

Bonus Question 2 The phrase **step in** is closest in meaning to ----.

- A) compare B) intervene C) forgive D) remove E) recall

ANSWER KEY

1.C

2.E

3.C

4.C

BONUS 1.A

BONUS 2.B