Chapter 9: Collaborative Learning: Working in Groups

Test your knowledge of Chapter 9: Collaborative Learning: Working in Groups by answering the following multiple-choice questions. You can find the answers to each question at the end of this document.

1. Group work is commonly used in courses that require:
   a. a lot of assessment.
   b. students to think deeply about course content.
   c. decision-making and problem-solving.
   d. report writing skills.

2. Group work at university is undertaken to satisfy many different teaching and learning goals. It is used to help
   a. you save time by learning more efficiently.
   b. make your learning an enjoyable and fulfilling activity.
   c. you learn, understand and retain as much as possible of what you are taught.
   d. Both B and C

3. Implicit or informal group roles usually emerge as part of the natural process of a group. They include:
   a. procedural roles.
   b. dysfunctional, task and maintenance roles.
   c. Both A and C
   d. leadership roles.

4. All students need to perform some task roles within a group. These roles:
   a. are focused on achieving specific aspects of the group’s goals and tend to give the group a sense of purpose and accomplishment.
   b. are: initiator; information giver; and information receiver, elaborator and evaluator.
   c. are focused on the social aspects of the group and help the group build a cooperative and safe learning environment.
   d. are formally decided on by voting amongst the group members.

5. Dysfunctional roles are individualistic or motivated by self-interest. Group members undertaking dysfunctional roles:
   a. solve disagreements and maintain harmony.
   b. agree with all group decisions and so lead to groupthink and poor group outcome.
   c. take actions that reduce the likelihood of the group achieving its goals.
   d. generate new ideas and actions.

6. Maintenance roles are focused on the social aspects of the group. They:
   a. judge the work or ideas of group members.
   b. help to build a cooperative and safe environment.
   c. provide the resources needed for the group to achieve its goals.
   d. Both A and B

7. Procedural roles are important pragmatic roles that help the group to achieve its goals. They:
   a. are implicit and informal.
   b. are roles that guarantee a group achieves a good outcome.
   c. need to be established early in the group life.
8 Group members can help minimise conflict by:
   a creating harmony in the group by agreeing with other group members.
   b being aware of what stage of group formation the group is passing through.
   c aiming for cultural consensus.
   d being respectful of others’ ideas and cultures, and aiming for consensus.

9 Conflict is a very natural part of all groups. It:
   a can occur at any time in the life of a group.
   b only occurs in the storming stage of group development.
   c can be a healthy and creative aspect of group processes.
   d Both A and C

Answers
1 C
2 D
3 B
4 A
5 C
6 B
7 C
8 D
9 D