How Individuals, Events, and Ideas Interact

Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: _____ / 10

Quick Review

In nonfiction, individuals SHAPE ideas (a person changes how the public thinks about a problem), and ideas SHAPE individuals (a new way of thinking changes what a person does). Track BOTH directions in the texts you read.

PART 1 — READ

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

The Doctor Who Mapped a Disease

In late August 1854, a deadly outbreak of cholera erupted in the Soho neighborhood of London. Within ten days, more than five hundred people had died. At the time, most physicians believed that cholera spread through "miasma" — bad-smelling air rising from rotting matter — and the city's response focused on cleaning streets and burning rags. A local physician named John Snow disagreed. He had been writing for years that cholera was carried in water contaminated by sewage, but he had been unable to convince the medical establishment. The Soho outbreak gave him a terrible but useful chance to test his idea against the disease itself.

Snow began by walking the affected blocks with a notebook, asking grieving families where their loved ones had drunk water in the days before they fell ill. He marked each death on a street map as a small black bar. The bars piled up around a single public water pump on Broad Street. Houses only a block away, served by a different pump, showed almost no deaths. A nearby workhouse, which had its own well, lost only a handful of its hundreds of residents. A brewery on the same street, where workers drank beer rather than water, lost none. Snow took his map and his interview notes to the parish council on September 7 and persuaded them — reluctantly — to remove the handle from the Broad Street pump. The outbreak, which had already begun to fade, ended within days.

The removal of the pump handle did not prove Snow's theory by itself; the epidemic was slowing for other reasons too. But the map did something more lasting. It gave doctors, engineers, and city officials a new way of seeing a disease: as a pattern on a map rather than a cloud in the air. Over the next two decades, that way of seeing reshaped public health. London rebuilt its sewers to separate drinking water from waste. Other cities followed. Snow died in 1858, four years after the Broad Street outbreak, before the medical establishment fully accepted his theory. But the idea that a disease could be tracked, mapped, and stopped at its source had moved from one stubborn doctor's notebook into the working methods of a whole field — and it has remained there ever since.

PART 2 — PRACTICE

Use the passage to answer each question.

1. How did the IDEA of miasma SHAPE the city's response to cholera before Snow's work?

A. It led the city to close all public water pumps.

B. It led the city to focus on cleaning streets and burning rags rather than on water sources.

C. It led the city to vaccinate residents against cholera.

D. It led the city to evacuate the Soho neighborhood entirely.

2. How did the INDIVIDUAL John Snow shape the IDEA of how diseases are studied?

A. He proved miasma was real but limited.

B. He turned disease investigation into a mapping problem — using interviews and a street map to trace deaths to a single water pump.

C. He invented the microscope and identified the cholera bacterium.

D. He convinced the medical establishment overnight.

3. What does the brewery detail MOST clearly show about the interaction between the water-pump idea and the people in Soho?

A. Beer drinkers were luckier than other residents.

B. People who did not drink the pump's water did not die — strong evidence that the pump, not the air, carried the disease.

C. The brewery was outside the affected neighborhood.

D. Snow was a brewery employee.

4. How does the parish council's decision interact with Snow's idea?

A. The council immediately accepted Snow's theory and rewrote the city's medical rules.

B. The council reluctantly acted on the practical recommendation (remove the handle) without yet accepting the underlying theory.

C. The council ignored Snow's recommendation entirely.

D. The council fired Snow from his position.

5. Which detail BEST shows how Snow's map shaped what OTHER PEOPLE did over the next twenty years?

A. "He marked each death on a street map as a small black bar."

B. "London rebuilt its sewers to separate drinking water from waste. Other cities followed."

C. "Snow died in 1858, four years after the Broad Street outbreak."

D. "He had been writing for years that cholera was carried in water contaminated by sewage."

6. How does the author MOST CLEARLY show that an IDEA can outlive an INDIVIDUAL?

A. By describing Snow's clothing on the night of the outbreak.

B. By noting that Snow died before the establishment accepted his theory, while the method he created became standard practice afterward.

C. By saying that Snow's family continued his work.

D. By comparing Snow to a modern doctor.

7. How does the AUTHOR balance Snow's individual contribution with other factors?

A. The author claims that Snow alone ended the epidemic.

B. The author writes that removing the handle did not prove the theory by itself, because the epidemic was already slowing.

C. The author says that other doctors had already created the same map.

D. The author says that the parish council deserved all the credit.

8. How does the brewery example INTERACT with the workhouse example to support Snow's claim?

A. The two examples contradict each other and weaken his case.

B. Both examples are anecdotal and prove nothing.

C. Together they show two different groups that avoided the pump and avoided the disease, strengthening the link between the pump and the deaths.

D. The workhouse example is the only one that mattered to Snow.

9. Using paragraphs 2 and 3, explain how Snow's map SHAPED public health practice for the decades that followed. Include one specific detail from EACH paragraph.

_____

_____

10. How did the IDEA of mapping interact with INDIVIDUALS other than Snow? Describe TWO different individuals or groups in the passage and what the idea caused each to do.

_____

_____

Answer Keys

1	A	**B**	C	D	6	A	**B**	C	D
2	A	**B**	C	D	7	A	**B**	C	D
3	A	**B**	C	D	8	A	B	**C**	D
4	A	**B**	C	D	9	See below			
5	A	**B**	C	D	10	See below			

Explanations

1. B	The miasma idea — bad air — directly produced the street-cleaning, rag-burning response described in paragraph 1. A is the OPPOSITE: pumps were left open. C invents vaccinations not yet available. D invents an evacuation never mentioned.
2. B	Snow's specific contribution was the map-and-interview method — the new "way of seeing" paragraph 3 names. A contradicts his actual position. C invents an invention; the bacterium was identified later by others. D contradicts paragraph 3.
3. B	Brewery workers shared the same air but not the same water and were spared — that pattern is the IDEA-EVENT-PEOPLE interaction the passage highlights. A reduces a piece of evidence to luck. C contradicts the text (same street). D invents a job.
4. B	Paragraph 2 says "persuaded them — reluctantly" — the council took the action without yet adopting the theory. A overstates the acceptance. C contradicts the removal of the handle. D invents an event.
5. B	B names the long-term action other people took because of Snow's map — the exact interaction the question asks about. A describes the map itself. C is biography. D is what he WROTE, not what others DID.
6. B	Paragraph 3 explicitly contrasts his death with the survival and spread of his method — that is the idea-outlives-individual point. A invents a detail. C invents family work. D invents a comparison.
7. B	Paragraph 3 explicitly limits Snow's single-handed credit — a careful interaction between his action and other factors. A overstates his role. C invents earlier maps. D over-credits the council.
8. C	Two independent groups with the same protective pattern is the textbook way evidence converges — stronger than either example alone. A reverses the relationship. B ignores the convergence. D invents a preference.
9.	**Answer:** Strong answer: Paragraph 2 shows Snow building the map from interviews and the death pattern around the Broad Street pump, demonstrating that disease can be tied to a specific source. Paragraph 3 then says the method gave doctors, engineers, and officials a new way of seeing disease, and London rebuilt its sewers while other cities followed. Together the paragraphs show the map moved from one street investigation to a permanent public-health practice. Acceptable variations: any pairing that uses one paragraph-2 detail (the map, the Broad Street pump, the council meeting, the brewery/workhouse cases) AND one paragraph-3 detail (the new "way of seeing," London sewers, "other cities followed," or the survival of the method after Snow's death). NOT acceptable: answers from only one paragraph; answers that just retell the outbreak; answers that credit miasma theory. A 2-point answer needs ONE detail from paragraph 2 AND ONE from paragraph 3, each tied to how the MAP shaped practice.

10.	**Answer:** Strong answer: (1) The parish council acted on the idea by removing the Broad Street pump handle, even before accepting the theory itself. (2) London city officials and engineers later rebuilt the sewer system, separating drinking water from waste — a direct outgrowth of seeing disease as a pattern tied to a source. Acceptable variations: students may pair any TWO of these — parish council, London sewer builders, doctors who adopted the method, officials in "other cities," or grieving families who answered Snow's interviews. NOT acceptable: answers that describe Snow himself twice (the question asks for OTHERS); answers with only one individual or group; answers that confuse miasma believers with people who acted on Snow's idea. A 2-point answer names TWO different non-Snow actors AND ties each to a specific action the mapping idea caused.

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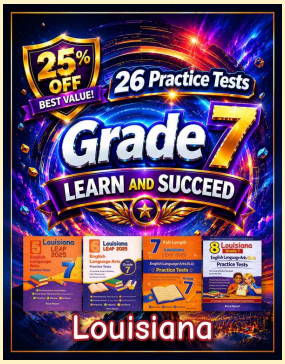

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