“Laboratories of Social Change”

by Doris Lessing

1st Column

1. What is Lessing’s view of the world we live in ?
2. What is an interesting comment on the human condition ?
3. What effects do bad news have on our minds / souls ?
4. What is Lessing’s optimistic remark about current affairs ?

2nd Column

1. What has happened over the last 20 years that seems encouraging to Lessing ?
2. Describe dictatorships and democracies using Lessing’s words.
3. How do some young people feel about democracy ?
4. Why does this happen according to Lessing ?
5. What excuse is there for these young people’s feelings ?
6. Provide an example to elaborate on this.

3rd Column

1. Why is an imperfect democracy better than other political regimes ?
2. How new is this idea of democracy ? Where did it originate ?
3. What is the rule of the law ? (students’ own answers)
4. What is civilized government ? (students’ own answers)

EXTRA TASKS

1. Locate words in the text that come from the Greek language.
2. Find synonyms for the following words :

1st Column

optimistic

opposites

power

2nd Column

chose

dangerous

freedom

horrible

3rd Column

idea

fragile

strong

agreement

evil

“Group Minds”

by Doris Lessing

**Answer the following questions.**

1. What do most Westerners wrongly believe about themselves?
2. Why is this idea that they have not exactly true?
3. Why do people join groups? Give at least 2 reasons.
4. What is one of the dangers when belonging to a particular group?
5. What is your opinion of what Lessing suggests in her essay ?

**Say whether the following statements are TRUE or FALSE.**

1. People’s opinions are their own.
2. People form all sorts of different groups.
3. It is not a good idea to belong to a group.
4. Few people choose to disagree with the opinions of their group.
5. The majority of people agree even with false opinions in their group.

**EXTRA TASKS**

1. Locate words in the text that come from the Greek language.
2. Find synonyms for the following words :

**1st Column**

come to the surface

obtained

as a result

whole

**2nd Column**

strange

hate

rules

rule

keep

explains

**3rd Column**

lonely

taught

surrender

most difficult

embarrassing