

Task 3 High-Scoring Sample Response

The reading passage explains social loafing, which is the idea that people tend to put in less effort when working in a group compared to when they work alone. This happens because individuals feel less personally responsible and assume that others in the group will carry more of the workload. As a result, group performance often suffers.

The professor supports this concept by describing a rope-pulling experiment.

In the study, people first pulled on a rope by themselves, and their strength was measured. Then, they pulled again—but as part of a group of six. Even though more people were involved, the total force was less than expected. Each person pulled with less effort than they had when working alone.

Later, participants explained that they didn't think their individual effort would make much difference, and some assumed others would make up for any lack of effort.

This clearly illustrates social loafing, as people become less motivated when their personal contribution feels less visible in a group setting.