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B2 OPEN CLOZE:
EPIDEMICS

Fill in the gaps in the text with one word. More than one answer may be possible.

Epidemics

An epidemic is defined _____(1) the rapid spread of a disease within a larger proportion of the population than _____(2) would be expected. We are currently experiencing a terrible worldwide epidemic of the COVID-19 virus. Most epidemics have the tendency of burning themselves _____(3) over a short period of time as people either build up a herd immunity to it, a vaccine is developed in time _____(4) the illness runs out of hosts. This is exactly what occurred with Sars in 2003 because the virus was quick to kill its host or they, at least, developed symptoms in a short space of time; none of which are the case with the Covid-19 outbreak. As _____(5) stands, almost one million people have contracted the virus, with around 47000 fatalities. The virus is known to have originated in China, but due to its high contagiousness and lengthy incubation period, it soon propagated to all corners of the globe. To begin with the virus was discarded as being fairly harmless _____(6) to the elderly and people with underlying health issues. This has not turned out to be the _____(7). Many countries have tried extreme measures like shutting borders and social distancing to avoid over running healthcare systems. Only time will _____(8) to what extent these measures have led to saving lives or getting a grip on the situation.

Answers:

Epidemics

An epidemic is defined **as** the rapid spread of a disease within a larger proportion of the population than **what** would be expected. We are currently experiencing a terrible worldwide epidemic of the COVID-19 virus. Most epidemics have the tendency of burning themselves **out** over a short period of time as people either build up a herd immunity to it, a vaccine is developed in time **or** the illness runs out of hosts. This is exactly what occurred with Sars in 2016 because the virus was quick to kill its host or they, at least, developed symptoms in a short space of time; none of which are the case with the Covid-19 outbreak. As **it** stands, almost one million people have contracted the virus, with around 47000 fatalities. The virus is known to have originated in China, but due to its high contagiousness and lengthy incubation period, it soon propagated to all corners of the globe. To begin with the virus was discarded as being fairly harmless **but** to the elderly and people with underlying health issues. This has not turned out to be the **case**. Many countries have tried extreme measures like shutting borders and social distancing to avoid over running healthcare systems. Only time will **tell** to what extent these measures have led to saving lives or getting a grip on the situation.