

Global Warming

It seems as if every time you turn on the television news, you hear one or the other of the following catchphrases of the 1990s: global warming, greenhouse effect, climate change. As it often is with catchphrases, hardly anyone knows what these terms really mean or how they relate to each other.

In the past 100 years, in our effort to make the Earth a more civilised place, industrial production has increased by fifty times. Four fifths of that growth has come since 1950. This production - most of it based on the burning of wood, and of fossil fuels like coal, oil, and natural gas - has greatly increased the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. When fossil fuels are burned, they release carbon into the air in the form of carbon dioxide. Carbon dioxide allows heat that would normally escape from the Earth's atmosphere to remain trapped, as it would in a greenhouse - thus the greenhouse effect.

When do you burn fossil fuels? When you turn on a light, or run an air conditioner, or take a hot shower, or make toast, you contribute to the greenhouse effect. It is a by-product of the use of energy- electricity, gasoline, or oil.

But how can carbon dioxide be bad when human beings exhale it every time they breathe? Plants need carbon dioxide; they use it to grow. Oceans absorb it. And forests drink it in. Without carbon dioxide, the average surface temperature on Earth would be 0 degrees Fahrenheit, instead of 59 degrees Fahrenheit. In nature, carbon dioxide is necessary and harmless. Here is the problem: in our effort to make the world a more comfortable place, people have produced far too much of it.

By drilling holes into glaciers and testing the air bubbles trapped in ancient ice, by looking at the fossilised plant tissues, even by looking at the air sealed in old telescopes, scientists have calculated that the atmosphere before the Industrial Revolution contained about 280 parts per million of carbon dioxide - the highest level recorded in the past 160,000 years. The current reading is near 360 parts per million. In the next 140 years, the carbon dioxide level should reach at least 560 parts per million.

We have increased the amount of carbon dioxide in the air by 25 percent in the past century. Carbon dioxide is not exclusively responsible for the greenhouse problem,

however. Other greenhouse gases include chlorofluorocarbons, nitrogen oxides and methane.

Question 1 – 5. Word use

Decide which of the following choices is closest in meaning to the underlined word in the sentence and write down the corresponding letter.

1. When fossil fuels are burned, they release carbon into the air in the form of carbon dioxide.

- A. absorb
- B. change
- C. emit

1	
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2. Carbon dioxide allows heat that would normally escape from the Earth's atmosphere to remain trapped, as it would in a greenhouse - thus the greenhouse effect.

- A. escaped
- B. caught
- C. heated

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3. When you turn on a light, or run an air conditioner, or take a hot shower, or make toast, you contribute to the greenhouse effect.

- A. help in bringing about
- B. lead indirectly to
- C. are mainly responsible for

3	
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4. But how can carbon dioxide be bad when human beings exhale it every time they breathe?

- A. breathe out
- B. take into
- C. breathe in

4	
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5 Carbon dioxide is not exclusively responsible for the greenhouse problem, however.

- A. greatly
- B. usually

C. only

5	
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Question 6 – 9. Matching the Phrases

Read the passage *Global Warming* and choose, according to the passage, one phrase (A-F) from the list of phrases to complete each key point below. There are more phrases than key points, so you will not use them all.

- A. has increased by fifty times in the past 100 years
- B. is not growing as fast as it was before 1950
- C. produces carbon dioxide
- D. the surface temperature on earth
- E. the carbon dioxide level in the atmosphere has been increasing
- F. carbon dioxide belongs to harmful gases

- 6. Industrial production
- 7. The burning of fossil fuels
- 8. Carbon dioxide influences
- 9. According to the scientists,

Question 10 – 16. Yes/No/Not Given Questions

Read the passage *Global Warming* and look at the following statements. Write

YES if the statement agrees with the writer;
NO if the statement does not agree with the writer;
NOT GIVEN if there is no information about this in the passage.

- 10. People usually do not understand what catchphrases really mean.
- 11. Most of the growth in industrial production in the past 100 years came before 1950.
- 12. Carbon dioxide allows heat to be trapped in the Earth's atmosphere.
- 13. People burn more fossil fuels when they take a hot shower than when they make toast.
- 14. People who use electricity help to produce the greenhouse effect.
- 15. The carbon dioxide level in the next 140 years will increase at least by two times what it was before the Industrial Revolution.
- 16. Carbon dioxide causes more problems than the other greenhouse gases do.