

Read the text below. For questions 1-10, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

It all seemed so simple in 2008. All we had was financial collapse, a cripplingly high oil price and global crop failures due to extreme weather events. In addition, my climate scientist colleague Dr Viki Johnson and I worked out that we had about 100 months before it would no longer be "likely" that global average surface temperatures could be held below a 2C rise, compared with pre-industrial times.

What's so special about 2C? The simple answer is that it is a target that could be politically agreed on the international stage. It was first suggested in 1975 by the environmental economist William Nordhaus as an upper threshold beyond which we would arrive at a climate unrecognisable to humans. In 1990, the Stockholm Environment Institute recommended 2C as the maximum that should be tolerated, but noted: "Temperature increases beyond 1C may elicit rapid, unpredictable and non-linear responses that could lead to extensive ecosystem damage."

To date, temperatures have risen by almost 1C since 1880. The effects of this warming are already being observed in melting ice, ocean levels rising, worse heat waves and other extreme weather events. There are negative impacts on farming, the disruption of plant and animal species on land and in the sea, extinctions, the disturbance of water supplies and food production and increased vulnerability, especially among people in poverty in low-income countries. But effects are global. So 2C was never seen as necessarily safe, just a guardrail between dangerous and very dangerous change.

To get a sense of what a 2C shift can do, just look in Earth's rear-view mirror. When the planet was 2C colder than during the industrial revolution, we were in the grip of an ice age and a mile-thick North American ice sheet reached as far south as New York. The same warming again will intensify and accelerate human-driven changes already under way and has been described by James Hansen, one of the first scientists to call global attention to climate change, as a "prescription for long-term disaster", including an ice-free Arctic.

Nevertheless, in 1996, a European Council of environment ministers, that included a young Angela Merkel, adopted 2C as a target for the EU. International negotiators agreed the same in 2010 in Cancun. It was a commitment repeated in the Paris Climate Accord of 2015 where, pushed by a new group of countries called the Climate Vulnerable Forum, ambitions went one step further, agreeing to hold temperature rises to "well below 2C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5C".

Is it still likely that we will stay below even 2C? In the 100 months since August 2008, I have been writing a climate-change diary for the Guardian to raise questions and monitor progress, or the lack of it, on climate action. To see how well we have fared, I asked a number of leading climate scientists and analysts for their views. The responses were as bracing as a bath in a pool of glacial melt water.

1. How does the article present the situation in 2008 in the first two sentences?
 - A. overwhelmingly positive
 - B. neutral
 - C. challenging
 - D. terrifying
 2. What is 2C?
 - A. the minimum temperature required for life on Earth
 - B. a political device
 - C. the maximum temperature that could be reached at the Poles
 - D. the bearable maximum rise in temperature
 3. Temperature increases beyond 1C
 - A. are certain to damage the ecosystem.
 - B. are likely to damage the ecosystem.
 - C. are bound to damage the ecosystem.
 - D. are to damage the ecosystem.
 4. The effects of the rise in temperature have already been noticed in
 - A. climate change.
 - B. climate change and species extinction.
 - C. climate change, species extinction and level of poverty.
 - D. climate change, species extinction, level of poverty and mood of the people.
 5. In order to properly understand what the effects of 2C are, one needs to
 - A. analyse the evolution of the climate in the past years.
 - B. take into account the current situation.
 - C. be aware of all the climate changes starting millions of years ago.
 - D. compare recent climate changes.
 6. Another warming of the climate by 2C after the industrial revolution will lead to
 - A. a worsening of the current problems.
 - B. new and problematic changes.
 - C. a definite improvement in the global temperature.
 - D. unknown consequences.
 7. The Paris Climate Accord of 2015 was characterised by
 - A. a more negative attitude towards the climate changes.
 - B. confidence that temperatures can reach the pre-industrial levels.
 - C. lack of constructive feedback.
 - D. a positive and constructive attitude.
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8. The author of the article has been in charge with
- A. analysing climate action.
 - B. finding solutions to climate change.
 - C. an ongoing monitoring of current issues.
 - D. environmental articles.
9. The purpose of this article is to inform the readers about
- A. the lack of action when it comes to climate change.
 - B. worrying uncertainty of the future when it comes to climate change.
 - C. the predominantly negative attitude of people towards climate change.
 - D. the need for people to join the fight against climate change.
10. The final sentence of this article is
- A. ironic and worrying.
 - B. positively reassuring.
 - C. overgeneralising the topic.
 - D. matter-of-fact.