

Name _____ Class _____ Number _____

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD

Air pollution damages intelligence, says study

Scientists have revealed that air pollution may be responsible for a significant *redaction / reduction* in intelligence. Research conducted for the World Health Organization (WHO) in China *showing / showed* that air pollution was responsible for notable *fails / falls* in student test scores for languages and arithmetic. The Chinese study is called, "The *compact / impact* of exposure to air pollution *on / in* cognitive performance". It was published *in / on* a journal called, "Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences". The study took place *under / over* a period of four years. Researchers *analyzed / analysis* verbal and arithmetic tests taken by 20,000 people *off / of* all ages. They said: "Polluted air may impede cognitive ability as people become *older / olden*."

Researchers say their study is a *waning / warning* to the rest of the world, especially to *those / them* who live in cities. The WHO says over 91 per cent of the world population live in *area / areas* with toxic air. Air pollution is currently the *fourth / forth* highest cause of deaths worldwide. The researchers *discovered / discovery* that the longer people were *exposed / exposure* to polluted air, the greater was the damage to their intelligence. They equated the impact of air pollution to *losing / lost* a year's worth of education. For those *aged / ageing* over 60, this could be the equivalent of several years of lost *educative / education*. Researcher Dr Xi Chen warned: "There is no shortcut to solve this issue. Governments really need to take *concrete / cement* measures to reduce air pollution."

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 1. revealed | a. The action of one object coming forcibly into contact with another. |
| 2. significant | b. Delay or prevent someone or something by obstructing them. |
| 3. arithmetic | c. Made previously unknown or secret information known to others. |
| 4. impact | d. The area of mathematics dealing with adding, subtracting, dividing and multiplying numbers. |
| 5. exposure | e. Great or important enough to be worthy of attention. |
| 6. cognitive | f. The state of having contact with something. |
| 7. impede | g. About the mental action or process of acquiring knowledge and understanding through thought, experience, and the senses. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 8. toxic | h. At the present time. |
| 9. currently | i. Caused someone to experience or be at risk of. |
| 10. exposed | j. An accelerated or quickened way of doing or achieving something. |
| 11. equated | k. Poisonous. |
| 12. equivalent | l. Specific; definite. |
| 13. shortcut | m. Equal in value, amount, function, meaning, etc. |
| 14. concrete | n. Considered or thought one thing to be the same as or similar to another thing. |

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1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. Scientists say air pollution leads to big reductions in intelligence. **T / F**
- b. Scientists said pollution reduced language and arithmetic test scores. **T / F**
- c. Scientists conducted the research over a four-year period. **T / F**
- d. Around 20,000 teenagers took a test in the research. **T / F**
- e. About 91% of people live in areas with very polluted air. **T / F**
- f. Air pollution is the biggest cause of death worldwide. **T / F**
- g. Scientists said air pollution caused a loss of 10 years' education. **T / F**
- h. A researcher said there were plenty of shortcuts to solve this problem. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| 1. revealed | a. effect |
| 2. significant | b. lessen |
| 3. impact | c. hinder |
| 4. period | d. poisonous |
| 5. impede | e. serious |
| 6. warning | f. issued |
| 7. toxic | g. shown |
| 8. published | h. work out |
| 9. solve | i. timeframe |
| 10. reduce | j. caution |

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COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. In which country was the research conducted?
2. In what two subjects did the scientists say test scores fell in?
3. Where was the study published?
4. How long was the study?
5. How old were the people who took part in the research?
6. What percentage of people in the world lives in areas with toxic air?
7. What is currently the fourth highest cause of death worldwide?
8. What was the equivalent loss of education caused by air pollution?
9. Who might lose several years of education because of air pollution?
10. What did a researcher say governments needed to take?