

CLIMATE QUIZ

What you need to know about the climate crisis (but might not!)

Burning fossil fuels has increased levels of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in our atmosphere, affecting our climate. The last time CO₂ levels were as high as they are now was:

- A. The 'medieval warm period', ending around 1250AD
- A. Around 11,500 years ago when the last ice age ended
- A. The Pliocene epoch, which ended 260,000 years ago

The climate crisis is a social justice issue. The wealthiest 1% of the world's population produce the same amount of emissions as:

- A. The poorest 33% of humanity
- A. The poorest 50% of humanity
- A. The poorest 66% of humanity

Which of the following have we NOT seen since 2020?

- A. UK temperatures over 40°C for the first time
- A. The strongest storm ever to hit the UK
- A. Three of England's five worst harvests since records began, due to flooding and drought
- A. The record for hottest global average temperatures being broken two years in a row

Why won't drilling more North Sea oilfields reduce UK household energy bills?

- A. The oil that's drilled won't belong to us
- A. North Sea oil and gas is running out
- A. Renewables are cheaper
- A. All of the above

High energy bills = big profits for oil and gas companies. In 2022, Shell scooped record profits of around:

- A. \$400,000,000 (\$400 million)
- A. \$4,000,000,000 (\$4 billion)
- A. \$40,000,000,000 (\$40 billion)
- A. \$400,000,000,000 (\$400 billion)

Corporate greenwash aims to con us into buying their products, and avoid real action to cut emissions. Which of these are actual examples of corporate greenwash?

- A. A power station that burns wood (more than the UK can grow) is 'green energy'
- A. An airport claiming to be 'net zero' carbon
- A. A bank running adverts about its sustainable investments - after providing £115 billion to fossil fuel companies over the previous five years
- A. All of the above

ANSWERS!

Burning fossil fuels has increased levels of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in our atmosphere, affecting our climate. The last time CO₂ levels were as high as they are today was:

C. The Pliocene epoch, which ended 260,000 years ago. Modern humans had just evolved in Africa, the global climate was on average about 2C warmer, and sea levels were at least 10m higher than today.

The climate crisis is a social justice issue. The wealthiest 1% of the world's population produce the same emissions as:

C. The poorest 66% of humanity (research by Oxfam on 2019 data)

Which of the following have we NOT seen since 2020?

B. The strongest storm ever to hit the UK. Although hotter seas are making storms stronger, the max 122mph gusts of Storm Eunice hitting the Isle of Wight were less than previously recorded in Scotland.

We HAVE seen record-breaking heatwaves, here and around the world. Agriculture in the UK and in many other countries is being hit by both drought and floods.

Why won't drilling more North Sea oilfields reduce UK household energy bills?

D. All of the above! **A.** Gas prices are set by the global market so oil companies (who own the oil and gas extracted) will sell it on internationally for the highest price they can get. **B.** North Sea resources are running down. Whatever decisions are made about new oil fields, in just 15 years' time they will be able to supply at most around a sixth of the gas we currently burn. **C.** Meanwhile, the cost of renewable energy has fallen dramatically - sun and wind are now the cheapest forms of power generation.

High energy bills = big profits for oil and gas companies. In 2022, Shell scooped record profits of around:

C. \$40,000,000,000 (\$40 billion). That's... a lot.

Corporate greenwash aims to con us into buying their products, and avoid real action to cut emissions. Which of these are actual examples of corporate greenwash?

D. All of the above! **A.** Drax power station is the UK's biggest carbon source, in 2024 it imported 7.3 million tonnes of wood, much of it from the clear-felling of forests - and received £869 million in subsidies. **B.** Bristol Airport claimed to be 'net zero carbon' - by ignoring emissions from flights. **C.** In 2022, the Advertising Standards Authority ruled that HSBC greenwash ads were misleading as they didn't include that the bank invested £115 billion into fossil fuel companies from 2016-21.

IT'S TIME TO ACT! As a society we need to take urgent action on the climate crisis and invest in real solutions that also build a fairer society, not simply to put more money in the pockets of those who caused the problems in the first place. We can plan communities with good affordable public transport and clean air; build and adapt homes so they are cheaper to heat and easier to cool down; and build more wind and solar energy – now much cheaper than fossil fuels. We can ensure workers have good jobs building a sustainable future.

Trade unions have a key role to play. Find out more about the trade union year of climate action:
cacctu.org.uk/yoa