

PENANG SANGAM HIGH SCHOOL
P.O.BOX 44, RAKIRAKI
SUPPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

WEEK 22

Year/Level: _____ **11** _____ **Subject:** _____ **ENGLISH** _____

Strand	LISTENING AND SPEAKING WRITING AND SHAPING
Sub Strand	EN.11.1.2.1 Apply appropriate verbal and nonverbal language features to effectively communicate information for a particular audience and purpose of context.
Content Learning Outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Select appropriate nonverbal gestures to make grammatically correct gestures.• -Use appropriate key words and phrases in texts to convey intended meaning.

COMPREHENSION AND SUMMARY WRITING

Complete the questions below.

Climate Change

5 Ezra Klein, the site's editor in chief of Vox.com had a sobering message for us all: more information does not lead to better understanding. He argued that when we believe in something, we filter information in a way that affirms our already held beliefs. He wrote that more information does not help **skeptics** discover the best evidence instead, it sends them searching for evidence that seems to prove them right.

10 It is disheartening news in many ways – for one, as Klein points out, it cuts against the hopeful hypothesis set out in the Constitution and political speeches that any disagreement is merely a misunderstanding, an ancient debate caused by misinformation. Applied to our **highly polarized political landscape**, the study's results make the prospect of change seem **incredibly** difficult.

15 But when applied to science, the results become more frightening. Science, by definition, is inherently connected to knowledge and facts, and we rely on science to expand our understanding of the world around us. If we reject information based on our personal bias, what does that mean for science education? It is a question that becomes especially large **chasm** between scientific knowledge and public understanding.

20 Scientists explain that science has become more and more certain. Every year they are more certain of what they are seeing. 97 percent agree that climate change is happening, and 95 percent believe that humans are dominant cause. Think of it another way, over a dozen scientists said that the scientific certainty regarding climate change is most similar to the confidence scientists have that cigarettes contribute to lung cancer.

25 The American public's opinion and beliefs about climate change have not changed a whole lot. In the late 90's, two-thirds believed that climate change was real and serious and should be dealt with. 63 percent believed in global warming but the issue has changed, it has become more politically polarized. Democrats have become more and more convinced that climate change is real and should be dealt with, and Republicans have been going in the opposite direction.

30 Being polarized leads to a very tricky situation, facts do not bend to political whims. Scientists agree that climate change is happening and Democrats and Republicans alike are feeling its effect now, all over the country. It has been reiterated that things look bleak, but avoiding a disaster scenario is still possible if changes are made right now. But if more information does not lead to greater understanding, how can anyone convince the public to act?

What had caused the glaciers that once blanketed the earth to melt? During the Ice Age, which ended around 12, 000 years ago, glacial ice covered one-third of the earth's surface

35 How was it possible that the earth's climate could have changed so drastically? In the 1850's, John Tyndall, a Victorian scientist, became the first person to label carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas capable of trapping heat in the earth's atmosphere. By the 1930's, scientists had found an increase in the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and an increase in the earth's global temperature.

40 In 1957, it was proposed that carbon dioxide in the atmosphere had increased as a result

of a post-industrial revolution burning of fossil fuels – buried, decaying organic matter that had been storing carbon dioxide for millions of years. But it was not clear how much of that **newly released carbon dioxide** was actually accumulating in the atmosphere, versus being absorbed by plants or the ocean. Charles Keeling answered the question

45 through careful CO₂ measurements that charted exactly how much carbon dioxide was present in the atmosphere and showed that the amount was unequivocally increasing.

In 1964, a study on the idea of changing the weather to suit various agricultural and military needs took place. It was concluded that it was possible to change climate without meaning to, something they called "**unintentional modifications of weather and**

50 **climate**" and it was specifically cited carbon dioxide as a contributing factor.

Adapted from: www.smithsonian.com, 1st May, 2014.

QUESTIONS

A. Multiple Choices

1. The word skeptics (line 4) refer to people who are
A. discovers. B. informers. C. supporters. D. unbelievers.
2. The word incredibly (line 10) is synonymous to
A. appalling. B. astonishing. C. convincing. D. frightening.
3. The meaning of the word chasm (line 15) as used in the passage is
A. gap. B. change. C. certainty. D. connection.
4. What is the source of the newly released carbon dioxide (line 43)?
A. plants B. animals C. greenhouse gas D. burning of fossil fuels

B. Sentence Completion

Try to use your own word(s) where possible.

5. According to the passage, science is defined as

_____. (1mk)

6. The Republicans believe that

_____. (1mk)

7. The amount of carbon dioxide available in the atmosphere is not clear because

_____. (1mk)

C. Open-ended Questions

Use your own words as far as possible to answer the questions given below.

8. What does the author imply by the phrase **highly polarized political landscape** (line 9)?

_____. (1mk)

9. Mention the two things scientists are certain about regarding climate change.

_____. (2mks)

10. Explain the effect of comparing scientists' certainty regarding climate change to cigarette contributing to lung cancer.

_____. (1mk)

11. Why is there a need for more information about global warming?

_____. (1mk)

12 Describe the contribution of carbon dioxide to climate change.

_____. (1mk)

13. Explain in your own words the phrase **unintentional modification of weather and climate**. (lines 49 - 50)

_____. (2mks)

SUMMARY WRITING

(5 marks)

Summarize paragraphs 4 to 9 (lines 16 – 50) of the comprehension passage in about 80 – 90 words.

Plan first. Draft points below.

Title: _____

Draft points:

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Final.

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(Approximate number of words: _____)

For markers only:

Points	Language	Cohesion	Total
3	1	1	5

