



General Certificate of Secondary Education
Higher Tier
November 2014

English/English Language

NENG1H

Unit 1 Understanding and producing non-fiction texts

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Insert

The three sources that follow are:

- **Source 1:** an online newspaper article called, 'Climate change: IPCC issues stark warning over global warming' by Robin McKie
- **Source 2:** an article called, "Ban drilling" say MPs as "wake-up call" shows Arctic ice melt could cause colder winters in UK' by Louise Gray
- **Source 3:** 'Alone', an extract from a non-fiction book by Sir Douglas Mawson.

**Please open the insert fully
to see all three sources**

Source 1

theguardian | TheObserver

[News](#) | [Sport](#) | [Comment](#) | [Culture](#) | [Business](#) | [Money](#) | [Life & Style](#) | [Travel](#) | [Environment](#) | [TV](#)

[Environment](#) > [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate \(IPCC\)](#)

Climate change: IPCC issues stark warning over global warming

Robin McKie, science editor

The Observer, Saturday 21 September 2013

Scientists will this week issue their starkest warning yet about the mounting dangers of global warming. In a report to be handed to political leaders in Stockholm on Monday, they will say that the burning of fossil fuels and deforestation have now led to a warming of the entire globe, including land surfaces, oceans and the atmosphere.



Extreme weather events, including heatwaves and storms, have increased in many regions while ice sheets are dwindling at an alarming rate. In addition, sea levels are rising while the oceans are being acidified – a development that could see the planet's coral reefs disappearing before the end of the century.

The report on climate change by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warns that humanity is on course over the next few decades to raise global temperatures by more than 2°C compared with pre-industrial levels. Such a rise could trigger the release of plumes of the greenhouse gas methane from the thawing Arctic, while the polar ice caps, which reflect solar radiation back into space, could disappear.

Although the report does not say so, Earth would probably then be facing a runaway greenhouse effect.

The scientists' warning – the most comprehensive and convincing yet produced by climate scientists – comes at a time when growing numbers of people are doubting the reality of global warming. Last week, the UK Energy Research Centre published a survey showing that the proportion of British people who do not think the world's climate is changing has almost quadrupled since 2005.

Asked if they thought the Earth's climate was changing, 5% of respondents said "no" in 2005, a figure that rose to 11% last year and reached 19% this year.

But as the IPCC report underlines, scientists are becoming more and more certain that climate change poses a real danger to the planet.

According to the new report, humanity has emitted about half a trillion tonnes of carbon by burning fossil fuels over the past 250 years, a process that has caused carbon dioxide levels to rise by 40%. The world is now on target to release another half trillion tonnes in the next few decades which could trigger a major jump in global temperatures.

Most measures that have been proposed for tackling global warming rely on curtailing the burning of fossil fuels. "We have to face up to the prospect of weaning ourselves off our addiction to oil and coal," said one report author. "It is as simple as that."

Source 2

‘Ban drilling’ say MPs as ‘wake-up call’ shows Arctic ice melt could cause colder winters in UK

by Louise Gray

The Environmental Audit Committee of MPs warned that the melting of sea ice is now happening so fast the Arctic could be ice free in summer “in the next few years”.

Joan Whalley, Chairwoman of the committee, said the UK weather pattern will be affected by the huge amount of fresh, cold water melting into the sea.

“There is evidence that the melting Arctic may be affecting the gulf stream currents that bring warmth to the UK and Northern Europe and so may be behind the unusually cold winters that have been hitting the UK over the last few years,” she said.

“The rapid melting of the Arctic and the effect it is having on the UK should be a wake-up call. Climate change is real, it is happening now and it will have an impact on all of us.”



In evidence to the committee, Dr Julia Slingo, Chief Scientist at the Met Office, said colder winters also tend to be drier as snow has less water content than rain.

She pointed out that even when a run of dry winters is followed by a wet summer, as has happened this year in the UK, it will not make up for the risk of droughts.

The drilling for oil in the Arctic is contributing to this by providing more fossil fuels to burn and putting at risk even more delicate ecosystems because of oil spills.

In a blow to major oil companies operating in the UK, the group of MPs recommended “a ban on all drilling in the Arctic” until safeguards are introduced.

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Source 2: Adapted from "'Ban drilling' say MPs as 'wake up call' shows Arctic ice melt could cause colder winters in UK' by Louise Gray. Copyright © Telegraph Media Group Ltd, 2012. Photograph: 'Oil rig in Beaufort sea' © Getty images.

Source 3: Adapted from 'The Home of the Blizzard' by Sir Douglas Mawson. Published by Birlinn Ltd.

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Source 3

Douglas Mawson is writing, in 1915, about his exploration of the Antarctic. Here, after the deaths of his companions, he is trying to reach the safety of the Hut.

Alone

I was hauling the sledge through deep snow up a fairly steep slope when my feet broke through into a crevasse*. Fortunately, as I fell I caught my weight with my arms on the edge and did not plunge in further than the thighs.

I decided to try a crossing about fifty yards further along, hoping that there it would be better. But it took an unexpected turn catching me unawares. This time I shot through the centre of the snow in a flash. Having seen my comrades perish and having lost hope of ever reaching the Hut, I had many times wondered what the end would be like. So as I fell through into the crevasse the thought, "so this is the end", blazed up in my mind, for I expected that the next moment the sledge would follow through, crash on my head, and all go to the unseen bottom. But the unexpected happened and the sledge held, the deep snow acting as a brake.

Realizing that the sledge was holding I began to look around. The crevasse was somewhat over six feet wide with sheer walls descending into blue depths below. My clothes were now stuffed with snow broken from the roof, and very chilly it was. Above, at the other end of the fourteen-foot rope, was the daylight seen through the hole in the snow-lid.

In my weak condition, the prospect of climbing out seemed very poor indeed, but in a few moments the struggle was begun. A great effort brought a knot in the rope within my grasp, and, after a moment's rest, I was able to draw myself up and reach another, and, at length, hauled my body on to the overhanging snow-lid. Then, when all appeared to be well and before I could get to quite solid ground, a further section of the lid gave way, throwing me once more down the full length of the rope.

There, exhausted, weak and chilled, hanging freely in space and slowly turning round as the rope twisted one way and the other, I felt that I had done my utmost and failed, that I had no more strength to try again and that all was over except the passing. There on the brink of the Great Beyond I well remember how I looked forward to the peace of the great release — how almost excited I was at the prospect of the unknown to be revealed.

My strength was fast ebbing; in a few minutes it would be too late. It was the occasion for a supreme attempt. Fired by the passion that burns the blood, new power seemed to come as I applied myself to one last tremendous effort. The struggle occupied some time, but I slowly worked upward to the surface. This time emerging feet first, I pushed myself out extended at full length on the snow lid and then shuffled safely on to the solid ground at the side. Then came the reaction from the great strain, and lying there alongside the sledge my mind faded into a blank.

*crevasse = a deep hole under the snow

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**Open out this page to see
Source 2 and Source 3**