

UNIT 11: READING

TEACHER'S NOTES

Aim: to provide practice in reading for general understanding;
to invite students to analyse opinion-based writing;
to provide practice in writing an opinion.
This worksheet is designed to be used after Lesson 11.1.

Time: 40 minutes maximum

Materials: photocopies of the worksheet for each student

- 1 These questions are aimed at developing students' general understanding of the text. They should be able to answer these individually and check with partners afterwards.

Answers: 1 F 2 F 3 T

- 2 The one statement that may prove problematic is number 2. The writer gives his or her opinion that there is a human effect on global warming. However, s/he talks conditionally about it and about the fact that it is safer to act than do nothing.

Answers: 1 T 2 F 3 T

- 3 These questions encourage students to realise that they are reading opinions rather than facts. This may prove useful in preparation for the Study skills section in this unit and the Study skills worksheet. If possible allow students to discuss their responses to the questions and consider whether opinion pieces like these contribute useful research on a topic.

Answers:

- 1 Both are writing their opinions. They both refer to what could be scientific facts about temperatures, but we have no way of knowing from the text if these are genuinely scientific or not.
- 2 It would be more convincing if they could quote scientific sources and provide more scientific information, for instance from particular studies or surveys.
- 3 Most students will bring some degree of knowledge to this topic and have their own opinion. It is unlikely that either of these short pieces will have persuaded them strongly otherwise.

- 4 This gives students the opportunity to write an opinion piece. It also provides the chance to refer to any scientific evidence they may be aware of on this subject to make their argument stronger.