

As a guide, this work could be undertaken as follows:

Monday: Read the news article aloud with an adult if possible; read it more than once and discuss it to ensure understanding.

Tuesday: Re-read the news article then undertake questions 1-8.

Wednesday: If necessary, re-read the article and undertake questions 9-16.

Thursday: Plan your letter

Friday: Write your letter

These timings are approximate – do move on if you have thoroughly completed a task.

Everyone works at different rates and at different levels. Just do as much as you can, it's fine if you can't finish this in one week 😊

Task One:

Read the news article entitled '*Coronavirus: Air Pollution and CO2 fall rapidly as virus spreads*'. If you can you should read it aloud with an adult to help you to read any tricky words.

It is OK if reading the article takes a whole lesson – I suggest you read it several times and discuss it if you can rather than go straight on to the comprehension questions.

Task Two:

Answer the following comprehension questions. These are linked directly to the skills needed to pass Functional Skills level one English. The '*Bonus*' questions are intended for those students who are working towards Functional Skills level two English – although I would be delighted to see any of my students attempting them.

The questions relate in chronological order to the content of the article.

Answer in full sentences

1. How many organizational features can you find for the news article?

Bonus: Can you describe the purpose of each organizational feature you have found?

2. A news article is writing to? (complete the sentence)

Bonus: Can you name another different type of writing?

3. What does 'significant' mean?

a. Interesting b. Confusing c. Large and important d. Quick

Bonus: Can you think of an alternative word for 'significant'?

4. What is the main source of the reduction in carbon monoxide pollution?
5. Why could we say that this isn't necessarily good news?
6. Which two sources of emissions have reduced as global economic activity has 'ramped down'?

Bonus: Can you re-write the first three lines of the news article to use bullet points (from 'Researchers in New York'... to ... 'fallen sharply.')

7. Who predicts that pollution levels could fall to their 'lowest since the financial crisis'?

Bonus: Why might the use of this group of people make us more likely to think that the claim is true?

8. How much higher were traffic levels in New York a year ago, according to the news article?
9. List the three gases the news article refers to so far that have reduced.
10. What does 'exceptionally' mean?

a. Frighteningly b. Chemically c. Cleanly d. Unusually

Bonus: Can you think of an alternative word for 'exceptionally'?

11. Climate website Carbon Brief suggests that two factors have contributed to the change in China over a two weeks period – what are they?

Bonus: The paragraph about the analysis by Carbon Brief is worded to sound like fact, when it is actually opinion. What vocabulary tells us that it is opinion?

12. What is important about nitrogen dioxide?
13. Reading the satellite image over Italy, what does the 'red' area show?
14. On the third page of the news particle, what two factors have brought emissions down?
15. Although people working from home will be using home heating and electricity, what will work against this to result in an overall reduction in emissions?
16. Prof Corinne Le Quéré thinks that the economic slowdown of one country in particular will impact global emissions, which country does she refer to?

Task Three

Plan and write a letter to Mr. George Eustice, who is Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs asking him to help you to reduce traffic pollution.

Use the news article to help you show that traffic pollution is a concern.

Make sure that your letter is in the correct format – remember where the address, the date, ‘Dear Sir’ and ‘Yours faithfully’ should go.

Bonus: Can you think of things that Mr Eustice could introduce to keep traffic pollution down?