

1. What rule does Monbiot propose for deciding whether to trust sources about the causes or implications of climate change? (1)

“One rule that I have devised for myself is to trust no one who has something to sell.” In class I called this the No Salesmen Rule.

2. Identify three harmful effects potentially resulting from a  $> 2$  degree C. increase in average global temperature. (3)

Students should get any three of the following, precise numbers not necessary.

1. Expose billions of people to water shortages. (glacial melting and droughts).
2. Up to 30% decrease in crop yields, “pushing the world toward famine”.
3. Rise of 40 cm in sea levels will increase flooding and pollute drinking water in coastal cities.
4. 15-35% of species committed to extinction by 2050.
5. Interior of Amazon basin will become devoid of vegetation.
6. Thermocline circulation in the Atlantic (which drives the Gulf Stream) could decrease or stop.
7. 2 degrees is the point at which much of the stored carbon in permafrost will be released, causing a positive feedback loop.

3. Why according to Monbiot are members of the professional class in Western society the least informed about climate change? (2)

Monbiot offers the following two explanations. Getting them each roughly correct is good for one point.

- 1) Because they have the most freedom to lose and the least to gain from an attempt to restrain CO<sub>2</sub> emission, he claims, they do not want to know about it. “Asking people in the rich nations to act to prevent climate change means to ask them to give up many of the things they value – high performance cars, flights to Tuscany...”
- 2) “The problem is compounded by the fact that the connection between cause and effect seems so improbable. By turning on the lights, filling the kettle, taking the children to school, driving to the shops, we are condemning other people to death. “

4. Why are the wealthier countries less motivated than poor regions to do something about climate change? (2)

Same grading policy as above. Wealthier countries are (1) in the best position to buy their way out of the problem and (2) will be the last ones or the least impacted.

5. What is the alleged link between Philip Morris, the tobacco giant, and the 'corporate conspiracy' to raise doubts about the existence of human caused climate change? (2)

I am willing to take a wide range of answers so long as they reveal that students read the chapters. Roughly speaking, Philip Morris developed a campaign of distrust and skepticism directed at any science linking second hand smoking to lung cancer. The techniques involved creating pseudo academic think tanks, publishing pseudo academic papers, funding researchers who raise doubts about climate change, and also creating general skepticism in the media about the legitimacy of science. This entire machine was tweaked only slightly by the same marketing agents and consultants in the service of Exxon's challenge to climate change. Or, so Monbiot alleges.