



Carefully read the excerpt below, taken from an article in the NY Times, then answer the four questions that follow.

1 In December 1873, London was blanketed for a week in a yellow fog so thick that people could not see their feet. “Ladies & gentlemen,” Mark Twain said in a public lecture at the time, “I hear you, & so know that you are here — & I am here, too, notwithstanding I am not visible.”

5 Some 780 people died and 50 prize cattle on display at the Smithfield Club panted, wheezed and eventually died of asphyxia. Still, it took 83 more years of noxious air before the country passed the Clean Air Act in 1956.

This history, described in “London Fog: The Biography,” is a lesson in just how difficult it is for governments to put public health first when it comes into conflict with economic development, the political power of industry and even the polluting habits of their people.

10 The government of India is up against all of those things. The capital, New Delhi, a sprawling city of 20 million, just lived through an extraordinary episode of air pollution that closed schools for three days. India is one of a number of middle-income countries, including China, grappling with pollution problems that have ballooned along with economic growth and rapidly expanding cities.

15 A decade ago, the scope of the problem was poorly understood because the numbers on air pollution levels and deaths were spotty. But that has changed. Satellites have given scientists far more detailed pictures, allowing them to perform ever more precise calculations.

20 “Scientists underestimated the scale of outdoor air pollution because we just didn’t have the data on what people were breathing globally,” said Joshua Apte, an assistant professor of environmental engineering at University of Texas at Austin.

25 They did not like what they saw. Air pollution is the fourth top cause of death globally, after poor diet, high blood pressure and smoking, with more than one in 10 deaths linked to it in 2015, according to the Global Burden of Disease, a vast data trove compiled by more than 2,000 researchers led by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington.

The group estimates that roughly 6.5 million people died from both indoor and outdoor air pollution in 2015. Two million of them died in India. Deaths from outdoor air pollution have risen to 4.2 million in 2015 from 3.5 million in 1990.

30 Without strong policy action, the death toll will only worsen as mega-cities mushroom, exposing ever greater numbers of people.

Source Reference: http://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/11/health/india-air-pollution-health.html?rref=collection%2Fsectioncollection%2Fscience&action=click&contentCollection=science®ion=stream&module=stream_unit&version=latest&contentPlacement=2&pgtype=sectionfront&_r=0

1. Why might the author include the air pollution example from London in 1873?

- A) London and India are located next to each other
- B) To show that air pollution is a common problem around the world

- C) To show the possible outcome of the pollution problem in India
- D) Both B and C

2. The word “noxious” in paragraph 2 most likely means:

- A) Healthy
- B) Cold
- C) Toxic
- D) Clean

3. What is the author’s goal in writing this article?

- A) To warn people of the dangers of air pollution
- B) To convince people to visit India
- C) To convince people to change their diets
- D) To give a history lesson about the air pollution problem in London

4. What is the overall tone of the article?

- A) Humorous
- B) Informational
- C) Biography
- D) Sad

Answer Key:

1. D
2. C
3. A
4. B