

THE FIGHT BACK, VENTILATORS NEEDED, SONGS FOR SOAP

British people face months of living our lives differently in the fightback against COVID-19, the illness caused by the coronavirus.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has urged people to work from home, not to travel unless they need to and to avoid places like restaurants, cinemas and theatres. As you know, schools are closing too to prevent the virus spreading, but will stay open for children whose parents work in the NHS and other emergency services.

One of the other key parts of the prime minister's battle plan is for older people to shield themselves from others by staying home alone for 12 weeks. This is because the over-70s aren't doing so well with COVID-19, with this age group most at risk of dying from the illness.

The good news is that, even among the elderly, nearly everyone survives unless they have other serious health problems already. The illness is generally mild in younger adults and children, no worse than a cold.

Earlier this week, Mr Johnson said anyone who lives with someone who has a cough or a temperature should stay at home for 14 days. This is to stop their illness spreading, in case it's caused by the coronavirus.

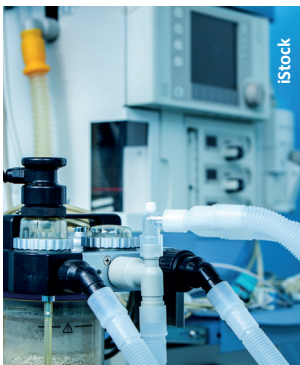
The virus was first found in China on 31 December. Since then it has spread around the world. Now, countries across the globe are at war with it.



VENTILATORS NEEDED

In countries affected by the coronavirus, factories have been helping out.

Coronavirus can lead to breathing troubles for some, so they may need ventilators to help them breathe. Lots of factories are now trying to use their machines to make ventilators instead of their usual products.



In Italy, a hospital that ran out of ventilator valves was contacted by a 3D printing company, who designed and printed 100 in 24 hours for them.

BRACKLEY, UK

● Songs for soap

A teenager has created a website that matches song lyrics to a 13-step hand-washing routine. Seventeen-year-old William Gibson wanted more options than just singing *Happy Birthday* twice. His website, Wash Your Lyrics, allows you to pick a song and download the musical poster. Over 175,000 posters were downloaded in the first three days. Queen's *Bohemian Rhapsody* is the most popular song so far.

Hand-washing technique with soap and water



Bohemian Rhapsody
Queen

THE WORLD GRINDS TO A HALT

A graph showing the plummeting value of companies on the Tokyo Stock Exchange. Many companies around the world are in danger of losing money or even going out of business



WE'VE talked about the health effects of the new coronavirus in recent weeks, but there are many other negative effects of such a widespread outbreak. We took a look at some of the disruption that the coronavirus is causing for societies, businesses and governments around the world.

HOLIDAYS HALTED

The travel and tourism industries were the first to feel the effects, as people started to worry about travelling to countries where outbreaks have occurred. Reports of cruise ships being quarantined or not allowed to dock has also put people off booking a cruise.

Italy has been hit hard by the virus and is on almost total lockdown. Many businesses in the country rely on tourists, whether that's in cities like Rome and Venice or one of the many ski resorts in the north of the country. More countries soon followed suit, and the UK Government has recommended against all but essential travel to anywhere in the world.

The International Air Transport Association said last week that losses for airlines in 2020 will be at least \$63-113 billion (around £48-86 billion). That's just for the passenger side of the business – there'll also be huge losses for cargo flights as well. That's due to travel restrictions, but also because companies can't produce as many goods because their factories have had to close down, either because staff are ill or because they can't get the materials they need to make things.



Schools have been closed in many countries, including the UK, Poland, Italy, Austria, the Czech Republic and Ireland. Many experts think it could backfire, as kids will be more likely to pass the virus on to older relatives. It also forces parents to take time off work, including many health workers who are needed now more than ever.

IT'S NOT KICKING OFF

The effects on society and culture are also increasing, as events and sports matches are called off – Euro 2020 has been postponed for a year. Officials have said that some leagues may not even finish this year, so they'll have to decide how, or even whether, to award the titles. There are also worries that the Olympics – the world's biggest sporting event – will be delayed or called off.

As people stay home, it means that shops, pubs, restaurants, cinemas and theatres are going to lose money, and these are some of the most vulnerable businesses that don't have huge piles of cash to fall back on. Even Cineworld, the world's second-largest cinema chain, has said that closing cinemas for three months could put it out of business.

There is pressure on governments to give businesses money so they don't close, so it's likely that rich countries will have to pay out billions of pounds to stop the world economy from collapsing.

TRAVEL UNRAVELS

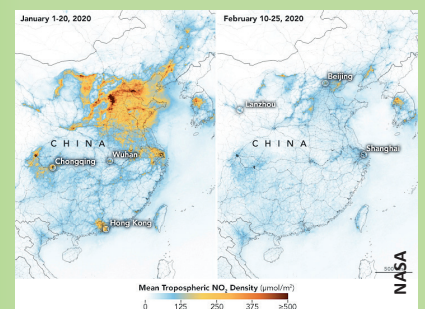
In China and Italy, the two worst-affected countries, travel restrictions mean that many workers have had to stay at home. Although some people can work from home, many people, such as those who work in factories or drive vans, can't. This means that lots of companies are losing money, and some workers who don't get sick pay won't be earning anything.

For small companies, there's a real risk of going out of business or having to sack people they can't afford to pay. People who aren't getting paid then have to worry about paying bills and putting food on the table.

Although it seems heartless to talk about money when people are dying, if poorer countries get hit with the coronavirus and have to put travel restrictions in place as well, the effect on their economy could mean less money going to their health service, making everything much worse. Plus, if people lose their jobs and have no money, it affects their physical and mental health in lots of negative ways.

IS THERE ANY GOOD NEWS?

- One image that went viral during China's lockdown period was this NASA pic, showing how nitrogen dioxide pollution (from factories, car exhausts, etc) had fallen dramatically



since January. Some scientists have suggested that this will even save lives because there'll be many fewer deaths from air pollution. However, António Guterres, the head of the UN, said that countries shouldn't let the coronavirus distract from the climate crisis. "We will not fight climate change with a virus," he said.

GLOSSARY

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) – The trade association for the world's airlines, representing 290 airlines

NASA – The National Aeronautics and Space Administration is an independent agency of the United States Federal Government responsible for the civilian space program

UN – The United Nations is an intergovernmental organisation that aims to maintain international peace and security



Questions on: The world grinds to a halt

Part A: Find and explain the facts

- A1.** Name the first industries to feel the effects of the new coronavirus.
- A2.** What is the current situation in Italy?
- A3.** What has the International Air Transport Association said that the losses for airlines in 2020 will be?
- A4.** Which countries are mentioned because they have closed their schools?
- A5.** Fill the gaps to complete the sentences about how the sports industry has been affected.

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Part B: Deduce and infer information

- B1.** Many companies are losing money because of this new coronavirus. Which businesses are more vulnerable and why?
- B2.** Why do you think charities such as food banks might be suffering?
- B3.** Why do many experts think that closing schools might not be a good idea and could backfire?
- B4.** How might the coronavirus affect people's mental health?
- B5.** Why do you think that António Guterres, the head of the UN, has said that countries shouldn't let the coronavirus distract from the climate crisis?

Part C: Analyse the writing and presentation

- C1.** What is the purpose of this report?
- C2.** Look at the structure of this report. Why do you think it concludes with the section: "Is there any good news?"

Part D: Discussion task

All around the world, people are being asked to make major changes to their lives. How has your life changed so far?

- D1.** Do you have any worries or questions about the coronavirus that you would like to discuss with the grown-ups in your life? Make a note of them here:
- D2.** Make a list of interesting, positive and creative things that you can do at home while you are not at school.

PS – First News would like to know what you're up to at home – send us your pictures and stories to newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk!

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This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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Teacher Answers

AIM OF THE NEWS COMPREHENSIONS: News reports are unique non-fiction texts. Being real, they naturally engage students, and with the range of topics that are covered, help to develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of the wider world outside the classroom. The reports are ideal for short, focused comprehension or discussion activities. Along with the opportunity to find fascinating facts and appreciate the opinions of those involved, there is plenty to be inferred and deduced to understand in more depth what is being reported. Like authors, journalists play with language, so news 'stories' are rich nuggets of text to investigate and provide the opportunity for literacy programmes.

TEACHER ANSWER GUIDE: The teacher answers are intended to provide a guide to the reading skill each question is practising. Suggestions are given for a starting point for responses that students would be expected to give at the start of KS3. Further suggestions then give fuller, more developed responses that students will work towards by the end of KS3, in preparation for the non-fiction elements of GCSE English language.

Questions on: Coronavirus Special

PART A

A1. Name the first industries to feel the effects of the new coronavirus.

READING SKILL — Find and explain information

Possible answer

Starting point

- The travel and tourism industries were the first to feel the effects.

Development

- This is because people started to worry about travelling to countries where outbreaks had occurred. Reports of cruise ships being quarantined or not allowed to dock has also put people off booking a cruise.

A2. What is the current situation in Italy?

READING SKILL — Find and explain information

Possible answer

Starting point

- Italy has been hit hard by the virus and is on almost total lockdown.

Development

- The situation is particularly bad because many businesses in the country rely on tourists, whether that's in cities like Rome and Venice or one of the many ski resorts in the north of the country.

A3. What has the International Air Transport Association said that the losses for airlines in 2020 will be?

READING SKILL — Find and explain information

Possible answer

Starting point

- The International Air Transport Association said last week that losses for airlines in 2020 will be at least \$63-113 billion (around £48-86 billion).

Development

- That's just for the passenger side of the business. There'll also be huge losses for cargo flights as well. That's due to travel restrictions, but also because companies can't produce as many goods because their factories have had to close down, either because staff are ill or because they can't get the materials they need to make things.

A4. Which countries are mentioned because they have closed their schools?

READING SKILL — Find and explain information

Possible answer

Starting point

- Schools have been closed in many countries, including the UK, Poland, Italy, Austria, the Czech Republic and Ireland.

Development

- However, many experts think that this will backfire.

A5. Fill the gaps to complete the sentences about how the sports industry has been affected.

READING SKILL — Find and explain information

Expected response

- The effects on society and culture are also increasing, as events and sports matches are called off. Euro 2020 has been postponed for a year. Officials have said that some leagues may not even finish this year, so they'll have to decide how, or even whether, to award the titles. There are also worries that the Olympics – the world's biggest sporting event – will be delayed or called off.

PART B**B1. Many companies are losing money because of this new coronavirus. Which businesses are more vulnerable and why?**

READING SKILL — Infer information and justify with evidence from the text

Possible answer**Starting point — some inference****Developed response — inference with developed explanation**

- Businesses where people cannot work from home are more vulnerable. This includes those companies in which people work in factories or drive vans. Such companies are losing money because if their workers have to self-isolate then the work just does not get done.
- Small companies are also vulnerable because they are less likely to have large funds behind them, so cannot survive any loss of income. They risk going out of business or having to sack people because they can't pay their wages.
- Smaller sports clubs are at risk because their matches are being cancelled. Thus, they are losing revenue from ticket sales, which they can't afford to lose.
- Shops, pubs, restaurants, cinemas and theatres are also going to lose money as social distancing and self-isolation come into force. They can remain open, but people are being asked to avoid such places. This may mean that these businesses will be unable to claim money from their insurance company and may not be able to continue operating in the face of such losses.

B2. Why do you think charities such as food banks might be suffering?

READING SKILL — Infer information

Possible answer**Starting point**

- Charities such as food banks could suffer because of people panic buying.

Development

- This means that when people from the food banks go into shops to use their cash donations to buy provisions, there is nothing left for them.
- Charity shops could also suffer because people are not going out as much, so they won't get as many customers. This is especially difficult for charities aimed at helping the elderly because their services are needed more than ever at the moment, yet they won't make as much money from their shops.

B3. Why do many experts think that closing schools might not be a good idea and could backfire?

READING SKILL — Infer information and justify with evidence from the text

Possible answer**Starting point**

- Many experts think that closing schools could backfire, because if kids are off school then they will be more likely to associate with their older relatives.

Development

- Also, if parents can't make childcare arrangements then it will force them to take time off work. Working from home may also be much less productive if parents have to care for their children at the same time. This could all have a detrimental effect on the economy.

B4. How might the coronavirus affect people's mental health?

READING SKILL — Infer information and justify with evidence from the text

Possible answer**Starting point**

- The new coronavirus could have a negative impact on people's mental health because people are very anxious about their health and the health of their loved ones.

Development

- Many people are also very worried about the economic impact of the virus. Some workers who don't get sick pay won't be earning anything and will be anxious about how they are going to keep their homes and put food on the table.
- Furthermore, human beings are a social species and social distancing will be difficult for many people. If people can't socialise at pubs, restaurants, cinemas and theatres then they might feel that they don't have anything to look forward to. This is why it is important that families, friends and communities find other ways to support and communicate with each other.

B5. Why do you think that António Guterres, the head of the UN, has said that countries shouldn't let the coronavirus distract from the climate crisis?

READING SKILL — Infer information and justify with evidence from the text

Possible answer**Starting point**

- António Guterres made his comment in response to the NASA picture showing how nitrogen dioxide pollution had fallen dramatically in China since January. The drop in pollution has been linked to the fact that the country is on lockdown so many factories, etc, are not in operation.

Development

- Obviously it is good news that the pollution levels in China have fallen. Some scientists have even suggested that this will save lives as there will be fewer deaths from air pollution. However, Guterres made his comment because he was obviously concerned that the picture may make people complacent and they may go back to their old polluting ways. Hopefully we will overcome the virus and the lockdown won't be forever. Then, unless people are still concerned with addressing the climate crisis, the problem will be as bad if not worse than ever. As Guterres said: "We will not fight climate change with a virus."

PART C**C1. What is the purpose of this report?**

READING SKILL — Understand writer's intent

Possible answer**Starting point**

- The purpose of this report is to inform readers about the wider effects of the new coronavirus and the disruptions it is causing for societies, business and governments around the world.

Development

- It is clearly written and contains lots of facts and statistics, such as the losses expected by airlines: "\$63 -113 billion". It gives specific examples of the businesses most affected and the impact on schools. The layout is interesting and the use of sub-headings makes it easy to read. These characteristics are all typical of writing to inform.

C2. Look at the structure of this report. Why do you think it concludes with the section: "Is there any good news?"

READING SKILL — Identify benefits of text organisation and presentation

Possible answer**Starting point**

- It is likely that the report concludes with good news so that it finishes on a positive note.

Development

- First News is written for young people and much of the information in this report is quite negative. Therefore, it is helpful to end with a focus on some good news. It leaves the reader feeling less overwhelmed.

Part D: Discussion task

All around the world, people are being asked to make major changes to their lives. How has your life changed so far?

D1. Do you have any worries or questions about the coronavirus that you would like to discuss with the grown-ups in your life? Make a note of them here:

Pupils own responses.

D2. Make a list of interesting, positive and creative things that you can do at home while you are not at school.

Pupils own responses.