READING QUESTIONS FROM ‘CAN COAL EVER BE CLEAN’ NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC WEBSITE, APRIL 2014

What is share of global electricity generated by coal, and the percent of total global carbon dioxide emissions it produces?

Number of deaths in China due to air pollution (much from coal):

Summarize the gist of Obama’s June 2013 speech.

What was one motivation for the Clean Air Act (summarize Donora)?

Multiple by which coal use per person in US exceeds global average.

Share of global fossil fuel CO2 emissions coming from coal.

How much per kilowatt-hour do the 1.3 million retail customers of the Mountaineer Coal Plant pay? How much of that amount is an externalities tax? (what is the point then of this?)

Where is the carbon sent that is captured by the experiment?

Name two countries, from far away, that sent representatives to see the carbon capture experiment.

What geologic characteristic makes most sites risky for carbon storage?

How long ago was it that atmospheric CO2 concentrations were as high as todays?

How many years of European power plant carbon emissions could be stored under the North Sea, according to researchers?

For what incentive does Statoil inject CO2 under the North Sea?

Describe experiment with carbon capture happening in Washington State.

What is “parasitic load” and what effect, do you think, it could have on total coal use, if carbon capture technologies become widely used?

What exactly is needed for carbon capture to really get going on a large scale?

What was learned from the sulfur dioxide emissions regulation experience, of trading pollution permits? (with regard to the present and future cost of regulation). Were industry estimates of future cost of regulation accurate? Why is this point brought up?