

## KEY POINT

Analyse the structure of a passage and see how it helps the purpose of the writing. Ask how the different parts fit together and relate to each other.

## ACTIVITY 10

A01

A02

SKILLS

CRITICAL THINKING,  
INTERPRETATION

MARK

## ▼ UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

Before answering the following questions, make sure that you have taken in the key points from the text. Think about:

- the use of detail (e.g. names and facts)
- the impact of the headline
- the problems that are mentioned
- the style and layout of the text.
- ▶ how, according to Elgan, are social networks addictive?
- ▶ how does he convey his own attitude to the problem?
- ▶ how does he structure his ideas in this extract?

▼ 'ARE HUMANS DEFINITELY CAUSING GLOBAL WARMING?'  
FROM *THE GUARDIAN*

Just as the world's most respected scientific bodies have confirmed that world is getting hotter, they have also stated that there is strong evidence that humans are driving the warming. The 2005 joint statement from the national academies of Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Russia, the UK and the US said:

*"It is likely that most of the warming in recent decades can be attributed to human activities."*

Countless more recent statements and reports from the world's leading scientific bodies have said the same thing. For example, a 2010 summary of climate science by the Royal Society stated that:

*"There is strong evidence that the warming of the Earth over the last half-century has been caused largely by human activity, such as the burning of fossil fuels and changes in land use, including agriculture and deforestation."*

The idea that humans could change the planet's climate may be counter-intuitive, but the basic science is well understood. Each year, human activity causes billions of tonnes of greenhouse gases to be released into the atmosphere. As scientists have known for decades, these gases capture heat that would otherwise escape to space – the equivalent of wrapping the planet in an invisible blanket.

Of course, the planet's climate has always been in flux thanks to "natural" factors such as changes in solar or volcanic activity, or cycles relating the Earth's orbit around the sun. According to the scientific literature, however, the warming recorded to date matches the pattern of warming we would expect from a build up of greenhouse gas in the atmosphere – not the warming we would expect from other possible causes.