

Smart Meters – reading tasks

Name _____ Date _____

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/money/2016/oct/01/smart-meter-energy-saving-revolution-cut-bills-gas-electricity>

Smart meters: an energy-saving revolution or just plain dumb?

By 2020, every home could have a hi-tech gas and electricity meter to cut bills and send readings wirelessly. But doubts are being cast on the £11bn scheme



Smart move? Once installed, an energy supplier can read a meter remotely via the mobile phone network.

Miles Brignall

Saturday 1 October 2016 07.00 BST

Their introduction is set to cost consumers £11bn, but studies show they cut energy consumption by 3% or less – so why is the UK spending so much on rolling out “smart” electricity and gas meters?

That is the question some commentators are asking after it emerged that a key element of the behind-the-scenes infrastructure has been delayed again.

This week the government revealed that, so far, around 3.3m first-generation smart meters have been installed in UK homes. The plan, now looking increasingly ambitious, is that by the end of 2020 around 53m will be fitted in more than 30m homes and businesses. The predicted cost is around £200 for each meter replaced – i.e., more than £400 for many households – a sum borne by consumers through increased bills.

For those of you who have so far missed this revolution, smart meters are set to replace every conventional gas and electricity meter in the country. They use wireless technology to allow the energy company to read the meter remotely, and the government has a manifesto commitment to ensure that every home and business is offered one – although you don’t have to say yes.

However, if you’ve already had a smart meter fitted, the bad news is that in many cases if you subsequently switch supplier it could lose all its “smartness” and become just like the perfectly good meter it replaced.

Smart Meters – reading tasks

Name _____ Date _____

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/money/2016/oct/01/smart-meter-energy-saving-revolution-cut-bills-gas-electricity>

1. What type of text is this?

A	a report		C	an advert	
B	an article		D	a leaflet	

2. Which statement matches the main theme of the text?

A	Smart meters are not being installed in the UK.	
B	Smart meters are dangerous.	
C	People don't want smart meters.	
D	Some people are questioning the value of smart meters.	

3. How many smart meters have already been installed?

A	11 billion		C	3.3 million	
B	53 million		D	400	

4. According to the text, how do smart meters work?

--	--

5. Read the first sentence in the first paragraph. What does 'they' refer to?

A	the government		C	the energy companies	
B	energy consumers		D	smart meters	

6. In paragraph 4, find a word (or words) to match these meanings.

until now	
normal	
at a distance	
political promise	

7. Read the final paragraph. What could the problem be for people who already have smart meters?

--	--

Smart Meters – extra resources (genres of text)

3



Source: <https://www.metering.com/gaz-and-leccy-to-campaign-for-acceptance-of-smart-meters-across-the-uk/>

Smart Meters – extra resources (genres of text)

2



Source: <http://vancouversun.com/news/local-news/judge-refuses-class-action-lawsuit-against-bc-hydro-over-smart-meters>



The screenshot shows a Guardian article titled "Smart meters: an energy-saving revolution or just plain dumb?". The article is by Miles Brignal, dated Saturday 1 October 2016. The main image shows a smart meter display on a tablet, showing a budget of £141 and a 47% under-budget status. The article text discusses the £11bn cost of smart meters and the potential for energy savings.

Energy bills Smart meters: an energy-saving revolution or just plain dumb?

By 2020, every home could have a hi-tech gas and electricity meter to cut bills and send readings wirelessly. But doubts are being cast on the £11bn scheme

Miles Brignal
Saturday 1 October 2016 07:00 BST

55 Shares 226 Comments

Save for later

Smart move? Once installed, an energy supplier can read a meter remotely via the mobile phone network.

Their introduction is set to cost consumers £11bn, but studies show they cut energy consumption by 3% or less - so why is the UK spending so much on rolling out "smart" electricity and gas meters?

That is the question some commentators are asking after it emerged that a key element of the behind-the-scenes infrastructure has been delayed again.

This week the government revealed that, so far, around 3.3m first-generation smart meters have been installed in UK homes. The plan, now looking increasingly ambitious, is that by the end of 2020 around 53m will be fitted in more than 20m homes and businesses. The predicted cost is around £200 for each

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/money/2016/oct/01/smart-meter-energy-saving-revolution-cut-bills-gas-electricity>



CHI ONWURAH MP
Newcastle upon Tyne Central

24, 7-15 Pink Lane
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 5DW
Tel: (0191) 232 5838
Email: chi.onwurah.mp@parliament.uk
Twitter: ChiOnwurah

The Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP
Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change
3 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2AW

17 May 2016

Dear Amber

On Friday in response to my question on Smart Meters you said:

"The hon. Lady should know that privacy is absolutely protected and at the heart of the smart meter programme. She should be careful not to put fear into the hearts of people where none should exist. The data are protected, and they belong not to the Government—which some people might, not unreasonably, fear—but to the energy companies. We will always reassure consumers that privacy is at the core of delivering safe meters."

This assertion that the data belong to the energy companies will strike fear into many hearts. Could you confirm who owns smart meter data?



Chi Onwurah
Labour MP for Newcastle upon Tyne Central

Source: <http://chionwurahmp.com/2016/05/chis-letter-to-energy-secretary-on-smart-meter-data/>

Executive Summary

This quarterly release presents statistics on the roll-out of smart meters in Great Britain. It includes information on the number of smart meters installed in domestic properties and smaller non-domestic sites in the last quarter (Q2 2016) by the large energy suppliers, as well as the total number of meters large suppliers operated at the end of quarter two 2016

For completeness, information on small energy suppliers¹ to the end of December 2015 is also included in this report.

Key findings:

Smart meter installations

- A total of 622,900² domestic smart meters were installed by the large energy suppliers in the second quarter of 2016 (268,300 gas and 354,600 electricity meters). This represents a 15 per cent increase in smart meter installations compared to the previous quarter. It should be noted, an additional large supplier has been included for the first time in this quarterly series, as their customer base now exceeds 250,000³.
- Over the same period, 16,400 smart and advanced meters were installed in smaller non-domestic sites by large energy suppliers (of which 11,000 were advanced meters and the rest smart meters). This represents a 13 percent decrease in overall smart and advanced meter installations compared to quarter one 2016.

Smart meters in operation

- As at 30 June 2016 there were 3.30 million meters operated in smart mode by large energy suppliers in domestic properties across Great Britain. Overall, this represents 6.9 per cent of all domestic meters operated by large energy suppliers.
- At 30 June 2016, there were 577,000 (48,300 gas and 528,800 electricity) non-domestic smart and advanced meters operating in smart mode or with advanced functionality by large energy suppliers. This represents around one in five of all non-domestic meters operated by large energy suppliers.
- **There are now over 4.2 million smart and advanced meters operating across homes and businesses in Great Britain, by both large and small energy suppliers^{4,5}.**

¹ Small energy supplier statistics are collected on annual basis, therefore information on these suppliers relate to the last full calendar year, 2015.

² Individual numbers are independently rounded to the nearest 100 and can result in totals that are different from the sum of their constituent items.

³ See Section 1.3 for further details.

⁴ Due to the differing data collection frequency for large and small suppliers, the total quoted reflects the latest operating figures available (as at 30 June 2016 for large suppliers and 31 December 2015 for small suppliers).

⁵ There is a likelihood that small suppliers approaching the 250,000 customer threshold by end year, will transition to 'large' supplier status over the course of the next calendar year.

Functional Skills English mapping

Coverage and range statements provide an indication of the type of content candidates are expected to apply in functional contexts. Relevant content can also be drawn from equivalent (school) National Curriculum levels and the Adult Literacy standards.

✓ indicates the main coverage and range skills that are (or can be) covered in this resource. However, these will vary with the student group and how the resource is used by the teacher. **Reference:** Ofqual (2009), *Functional Skills criteria for English: Entry 1, Entry 2, Entry 3, level 1 and level 2*. <http://www.ofqual.gov.uk/>

Entry 3 Reading skill standard: Read and understand the purpose and content of straightforward texts that explain, inform and recount information

Coverage and range statements

- a) Understand the main points of texts ✓
- b) Obtain specific information through detailed reading ✓
- c) Use organisational features to locate information ✓
- d) Read and understand texts in different formats using strategies and techniques appropriate to task ✓

Level 1 Reading skill standard: Read and understand a range of straightforward texts

Coverage and range statements

- a) Identify the main points and ideas and how they are presented in a variety of texts ✓
- b) Read and understand texts in detail ✓
- c) Utilise information contained in texts ✓
- d) Identify suitable responses to texts ✓

Level 2 Reading skill standard: Select, read, understand and compare texts and use them to gather information, ideas, arguments and opinions

Coverage and range statements

- a) Select and use different types of texts to obtain and utilise relevant information
- b) Read and summarise, succinctly, information/ideas from different sources ✓
- c) Identify the purposes of texts and comment on how meaning is conveyed ✓
- d) Detect point of view, implicit meaning and/or bias ✓
- e) Analyse texts in relation to audience needs and consider suitable responses

* This resource also covers many adult literacy curriculum <http://www.excellencegateway.org.uk/content/etf1286> elements.

Questions cover the following skills: reading for gist, skimming, scanning, identifying the use of a pronoun, vocabulary matching and inferring. Suitable Entry 3 – Level 1. Could also be used as a starter activity at Level 2, prior to using the full text of the article for other activities. Pages 3 to 7 can be used as a starter activity (E2 upwards). These images represent five genres of text – an advert, a sign / notice, an article (the article used in the main activity), a letter and a report.

NOTE: Some answers are suggestions or examples only. Other answers are possible. Check with your tutor.

1. What type of text is this? **B. An article**
2. Which statement matches the main theme of the text?
D. Some people are questioning the value of smart meters.
3. How many smart meters have already been installed? **C. 3.3 million**
4. According to the text, how do smart meters work?
They send meter readings wirelessly / remotely using the mobile phone network.
5. Read the first sentence in the first paragraph. What does 'they' refer to? **D. Smart meters**
6. In paragraph 4, find a word (or words) to match these meanings.

until now	so far	at a distance	remotely
normal	conventional	political promise	manifesto

7. Read the final paragraph. What could the problem be for people who already have smart meters?
They might not work properly if you switch to a different energy supplier.