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## Airbus Warns: Sun Radiation Disrupts Flight Control Data

### Description

Airbus, the prominent aircraft manufacturer, has mandated the grounding of thousands of its planes following the identification of a critical issue concerning solar radiation that may disrupt onboard flight control computers. This has resulted in widespread delays across the aviation sector.

An estimated 6,000 A320 aircraft are believed to be impacted, which constitutes approximately half of Airbus's global fleet. Nevertheless, it is anticipated that the majority can resume service following a straightforward software update. The UK's aviation authority has indicated that implementing these updates may lead to "some disruption and cancellations to flights."

The situation unfolded following an investigation into an alarming incident involving an A320 aircraft traveling between the United States and Mexico, which experienced a sudden altitude drop last October. This flight, operated by JetBlue Airways, was forced to make an emergency landing in Florida, resulting in injuries to at least 15 passengers.

In addition to the A320, the issue also encompasses the A318, A319, and A321 models. For around 5,100 of the affected Airbus planes, the problem can be rectified through a relatively unobtrusive software update, which typically requires about three hours to complete. However, the remaining 900 older models will necessitate a physical replacement of onboard computers, thus prohibiting them from carrying passengers until the replacements are finalized. The timeline for this repair will depend on the availability of the requisite components.

Airbus has expressed recognition of the potential "operational disruption for passengers and customers," offering an apology for the inconvenience. Aviation analyst Sally Gethin remarked to BBC News that this development is "highly unusual." The impact on passengers will likely vary depending on the differing strategies airlines adopt to enact the necessary upgrades.

While disruptions have been limited in the UK, with Gatwick Airport reporting minor issues, major airlines like British Airways have been less affected, whereas others, including EasyJet, have initiated software upgrades with minimal service interruptions expected.



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## Vocabulary List:

1. **Grounding** /'graʊndɪŋ/ (noun): The act of preventing an aircraft from flying.
2. **Disruption** /dɪs'rʌpʃən/ (noun): Interference with the normal operation or progress of something.
3. **Software** /'sɔ:f(t)weɪ/ (noun): The programs and other operating information used by a computer.
4. **Rectified** /'rektɪfaɪd/ (verb): Corrected or set right.
5. **Incident** /'ɪnsɪdənt/ (noun): An event or occurrence especially one of minor importance.
6. **Component** /kəm'pəʊ.nənt/ (noun): A part or element of a larger whole.

## Comprehension Questions

### Multiple Choice

1. How many A320 aircraft are estimated to be impacted by the grounding mandate?  
Option: 2,000  
Option: 6,000  
Option: 10,000  
Option: 15,000
2. What is the recommended solution for the majority of affected Airbus planes?  
Option: Physical replacement  
Option: Software update  
Option: Component overhaul  
Option: Aircraft redesign
3. How many models, in addition to the A320, are impacted by the critical issue?  
Option: 1  
Option: 2  
Option: 3  
Option: 4
4. What is the primary concern related to the critical issue with Airbus planes?  
Option: Engine malfunction  
Option: Solar radiation interference  
Option: Pilot error



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Option: Fuel leakage

5. How many older Airbus models require a physical replacement of onboard computers?

Option: 100

Option: 500

Option: 900

Option: 1,200

6. What is the potential outcome of airlines adopting different strategies for enacting necessary upgrades?

Option: Increased disruptions

Option: Minimal service interruptions

Option: Total grounding

Option: Financial losses

### True-False

7. The critical issue affecting Airbus planes involves onboard flight control computers being disrupted by solar radiation.

8. The situation with Airbus planes has led to disruptions predominantly in the UK.

9. The majority of affected Airbus planes can resume service after a physical replacement of onboard computers.

10. EasyJet has experienced significant service interruptions due to the Airbus grounding mandate.

11. Airbus has acknowledged the inconvenience caused to passengers and customers due to the grounding mandate.

12. The availability of components will determine the timeframe for repairing the older Airbus models.

### Gap-Fill

13. The estimated number of A320 aircraft impacted by the critical issue is approximately

\_\_\_\_\_.



14. For around 5,100 affected Airbus planes, the problem can be rectified through a relatively unobtrusive \_\_\_\_\_ update.
16. Gatwick Airport reported \_\_\_\_\_ issues related to the Airbus grounding mandate.
17. A physical replacement of onboard computers is necessary for \_\_\_\_\_ of the older Airbus models.
18. The timeline for repairing the older models will depend on the availability of the requisite \_\_\_\_\_.

## Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. 6,000 2. Software update 3. 3 4. Solar radiation interference 5. 900 6. Minimal service interruptions

**True-False:** 7. True 8. False 9. False 10. False 11. True 12. True

**Gap-Fill:** 13. 6,000 14. software 16. minor 17. 900 18. components

## Vocabulary quizzes

### Multiple Choice ( Select the Correct answer for each question. )

1. Which term refers to the use of goods and services by individuals or households?  
Option: Reliance  
Option: Consumption  
Option: Investment  
Option: Geopolitical
2. Which term relates to the geographical factors influencing international relations and foreign policy?  
Option: Stabilising  
Option: Integration  
Option: Geopolitical  
Option: Surveillance
3. Which term describes something that is likely to cause an argument or be disputed?  
Option: Contentious



- Option: Advocates
- Option: Criticism
- Option: Clarified

4. Which term refers to the things done successfully typically by effort or skill?

- Option: Departure
- Option: Achievements
- Option: Concerns
- Option: Amicable

5. Which term signifies a major disturbance or problem that interrupts normal events?

- Option: Venture
- Option: Grounding
- Option: Disruption
- Option: Software

6. Which term is used to describe something or someone famous or well-known typically for some bad quality or deed?

- Option: Rectified
- Option: Incident
- Option: Component
- Option: Notorious

7. Which term refers to proposed explanations based on limited evidence and used as a starting point for further investigation?

- Option: Disruptive
- Option: Elusive
- Option: Manipulates
- Option: Hypotheses

8. Which term means to give special importance or prominence to something in speaking or writing?

- Option: Scrutinizing
- Option: Emphasised
- Option: Reliance
- Option: Investment

9. Which term means to correct or make right an error fault or problem?

- Option: Component
- Option: Scrutinizing
- Option: Notorious
- Option: Rectified

10. Which term describes something that is difficult to find catch or achieve?



- Option: Disruptive
- Option: Elusive
- Option: Manipulates
- Option: Incident

**Gap-Fill ( Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

11. \_\_\_\_\_ is the monitoring or observation of a person group or place for the purpose of gathering information.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ refers to the process of combining different elements into a harmonious whole.
13. The company faced intense \_\_\_\_\_ from regulators regarding its business practices.
14. Long-term financial \_\_\_\_\_ is crucial for securing future growth and stability.
15. The sudden \_\_\_\_\_ of the CEO surprised many employees.
16. The organization \_\_\_\_\_ for the rights of marginalized communities.
17. Constructive \_\_\_\_\_ can help individuals and organizations improve.
18. A strong educational \_\_\_\_\_ can make a significant difference in a person's life.
19. The data analysis software \_\_\_\_\_ large datasets efficiently.
20. Diplomatic efforts are essential for \_\_\_\_\_ regions facing political unrest.

**Matching Sentences ( Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

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| 21. Successful businesses often require long-term financial commitments for growth and stability.                                     |
| 22. The company's operations are heavily dependent on a few key suppliers demonstrating a significant level of trust and .            |
| 23. The merger aimed at combining the diverse strengths of the two companies to create a more cohesive and efficient entity through . |



24. The team's collective efforts resulted in several notable successes and noteworthy over the past year.
25. The auditor spent days meticulously examining the financial records and every transaction for accuracy.
26. Despite the initial disagreements the parties reached an agreement that was mutually beneficial.
27. The ambitious young entrepreneur decided to embark on a new in the tech industry.
28. The innovative technology had the potential to be highly in the market causing significant changes in traditional practices.
29. Each individual part plays a crucial role as a of the larger system contributing to its overall function.
30. The CEO addressed the confusion and the company's stance on sustainability during the press conference.

## Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. Consumption 2. Geopolitical 3. Contentious 4. Achievements 5. Disruption 6. Notorious 7. Hypotheses 8. Emphasised 9. Rectified 10. Elusive

**Gap-Fill:** 11. Surveillance 12. Integration 13. Scrutiny 14. Investment 15. Departure 16. Advocates 17. Criticism 18. Grounding 19. Manipulates 20. Stabilising

**Matching sentence:** 1. Investment 2. Reliance 3. Integration 4. Achievements 5. Scrutinizing 6. Amicable 7. Venture 8. Disruptive 9. Component 10. Clarified

## CATEGORY

1. Business - LEVEL5

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