Biden vows to repair global alliances
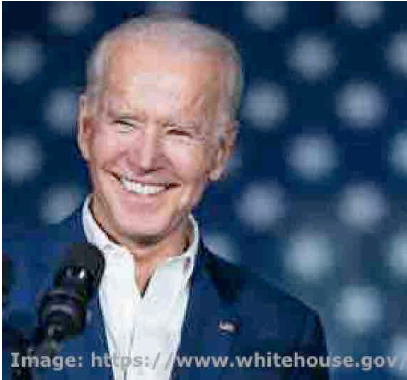
22nd January, 2021

Image: https://www.whitehouse.gov/

Joe Biden has promised to re-establish global alliances in his first speech as U.S. President. Mr Biden was sworn in as the 46th U.S. President on Wednesday amid tight security in Washington. In unprecedented scenes, around 25,000 National Guard troops were positioned to make sure the inauguration took place without incident. In the first days of his presidency, Mr Biden will make several executive orders to change the direction of America's foreign policy. He will rejoin the Paris climate accord. Biden spoke about restoring America's reputation overseas. He said: "America has been tested. And we've come out stronger for it. We will repair our alliances and engage with the world once again."

Outgoing President Donald Trump left office vowing to "be back". His parting words to the American public were: "Have a good life, we will see you soon." Mr Trump broke with tradition by not attending his successor's inauguration. In his farewell speech, Mr Trump said: "This has been an incredible four years. We've accomplished so much together. What we've done has been amazing by any standard." He added: "It's been a great honour and privilege to be your president. I will always fight for you....I wish the new administration great luck and great success. I think they will have great success. They have the foundation to do something really spectacular."

Sources: *theguardian.com / usatoday.com / bbc.com*

Writing

Joe Biden will be a great U.S. President. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

global / alliance / security / unprecedented / inauguration / presidency / reputation / office / parting words / a good life / tradition / accomplish / privilege / luck / success

True / False

a)   Joe Biden promised to re-establish global alliances in his second speech. T / F

b)   There were nearly 20,000 National Guard troops at the inauguration. T / F

c)   Joe Biden said he would rejoin the Paris climate accord. T / F

d)   Joe Biden said America had yet to be tested. T / F

e)   Donald Trump told people to have a good life. T / F

f)   Donald Trump did not attend Joe Biden's inauguration. T / F

g)   Donald Trump said he would continue to fight for people. T / F

h)   Donald Trump thinks Biden's administration will be successful. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

1.	**promised**	a.	impressive
2.	**amid**	b.	drama
3.	**unprecedented**	c.	good name
4.	**incident**	d.	farewell
5.	**reputation**	e.	surrounded by
6.	**parting**	f.	achieved
7.	**tradition**	g.	vowed
8.	**accomplished**	h.	basis
9.	**foundation**	i.	unheard of
10.	**spectacular**	j.	custom

Discussion – Student A

a)   What do you know about Joe Biden?

b)   What do you think of Joe Biden?

c)   What kind of President will Joe Biden be?

d)   What are the most important things Biden needs to do?

e)   How important are global alliances?

f)   What news of the inauguration did you see?

g)   Should the USA re-join the Paris climate accord?

h)   What is the USA's reputation around the world?

Phrase Match

1. amid tight
2. the inauguration took place without
3. change the direction of America's
4. restoring America's reputation
5. engage with the
6. His parting
7. Mr Trump broke with
8. We've accomplished
9. It's been a great honour
10. do something really

a. words
b. tradition
c. world once again
d. spectacular
e. incident
f. and privilege
g. security
h. overseas
i. so much
j. foreign policy

Discussion – Student B

a) What do you think about what you read?
b) What advice do you have for Joe Biden?
c) What do you think of Donald Trump?
d) How did Donald Trump change America?
e) What advice do you have for Donald Trump?
f) What do you think Donald Trump will do for the rest of this year?
g) What are Donald Trump's biggest accomplishments?
h) What questions would you like to ask Donald Trump?

Spelling

1. In nprcteeduedne scenes
2. took place without ctinedin
3. In the first days of his rcsedeyipn
4. rejoin the Paris climate rcdcao
5. restoring America's tnpurteioa overseas
6. neeagg with the world once again
7. not attending his successor's ioruuinnaagt
8. We've diecmoaslcph so much
9. amazing by any sadrtand
10. a great honour and gvieirelp
11. the new minstitondiara
12. do something really ptclaauercs

Role Play

Role A – Foreign Policy
You think foreign policy is the most important thing for governments to focus on. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): homeland security, the environment or education.

Role B – Homeland Security
You think homeland security is the most important thing for governments to focus on. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): foreign policy, the environment or education.

Role C – The Environment
You think the environment is the most important thing for governments to focus on. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): homeland security, foreign policy or education.

Role D – Education
You think education is the most important thing for governments to focus on. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): homeland security, the environment or foreign policy.

Speaking – Policy

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important policy areas at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Homeland Security
- Education
- Taxation
- Social Welfare
- Foreign policy
- Healthcare
- Law and Order
- Environment

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. e	3. i	4. b	5. c
6. d	7. j	8. f	9. h	10. a

Answers – True False

a F	b F	c T	d F	e T	f T	g T	h T

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.