

Reading Explorer 5 Unit 5 Lesson B

A. Read the passage “Plugging into the Sun” (pages 107-109). Choose the best answer for each question.

- _____ 1. What does the phrase *canals of light* refer to in paragraph B?
- canals filled with shining water
 - moonlight glowing on curved pipes
 - rows of mirrors reflecting the sun
 - bright lights from Las Vegas
- _____ 2. Which of these is the final step in the process of power production at Nevada Solar One?
- The heat powers a turbine and dynamo.
 - Electricity enters the power grid.
 - Pipes absorb heat from the sun.
 - Oil in the pipes becomes extremely hot.
- _____ 3. What is the purpose of paragraph E?
- to demonstrate that solar power is more than adequate for human needs
 - to point out that geothermal and wind power have inadequate capacity
 - to emphasize Germany's pioneering role in solar energy
 - to argue for installing solar collectors at sea as well as on land
- _____ 4. Why is electricity from Nevada Solar One competitive in price?
- The installation received a federal tax benefit.
 - The plant met a deadline for renewable power.
 - The Nevada state legislature pays for it.
 - Gas and other fossil fuels have become too expensive.
- _____ 5. What is the main idea in paragraphs I and J?
- Solar was not popular in the 1980s.
 - Photovoltaic panels can provide energy for the whole country.
 - The use of solar mirrors is decreasing.
 - There are two main methods of harnessing solar energy.
- _____ 6. Which of the following sentences is true?
- Solar thermal energy (STE) technology uses semiconductors such as silicon.
 - Photovoltaic (PV) panels are the most widely-used technology in the solar power industry.
 - Photovoltaic (PV) panels use mirrors to produce thermal energy.
 - Solar thermal energy (STE) technology converts sunlight directly into electricity.
- _____ 7. The following sentence would be best placed at the end of which paragraph?
- Investors believe that as fossil fuels become scarcer and hence more expensive, PV solar panels will become more economical.*
- Paragraph H
 - Paragraph K
 - Paragraph N
 - Paragraph P
- _____ 8. If you visited Morbach, Germany, what would you see all over the town?

- a. high wind turbines
- b. the Black Forest
- c. photovoltaic panels on roofs
- d. gas-fired power plants

- _____ 9. In paragraph R, what does *the bigger ones* refer to?
- a. Spanish technology parks
 - b. German power plants
 - c. photovoltaic installations
 - d. air force bases
- _____ 10. Which of the following is true for both Germany and the United States?
- a. It is one of the top producers of photovoltaic power in the world.
 - b. Anybody who installs a PV system is guaranteed above-market rates for 20 years.
 - c. Less than 10% of the country's electricity is generated from solar energy every year.
 - d. Regulations require utility companies to pay all PV producers a premium.

B. Complete the sentences using the words in the box.

appliances	audit	commonplace	commutes	compact
incentive	mode	obstacle	threshold	utility

11. At the turn of the 21st century, cellphones became _____.
12. Physicists think that experiments from the Large Hadron Collider are on the _____ of discovering how particles really work.
13. _____ bills include gas, electric, water, and telephone bills.
14. The company does a monthly _____ to keep track of its finances.
15. Typical household _____ include washing machines and refrigerators.
16. _____ cars are gaining popularity because of their size.
17. When you are watching a movie in the cinema, make sure your cellphone is on silent _____.
18. He _____ to work by train.
19. He trained jumping hurdles in a(n) _____ course.
20. The government is offering additional tax rebates for working parents as a(n) _____ to have children.

DIRECTIONS: Complete the sentences. Choose the correct word.

- a. circulate
- b. deadline
- c. ingenious
- d. offset
- e. panel
- f. premium
- g. renewable
- h. subsidy
- i. subtract
- j. yielded

- ____ 21. It helps to keep the room cool if you use a fan to ____ the air around.
- ____ 22. Environmentalists favor ____ sources of energy such as wind, water, and solar.
- ____ 23. If you want to enter the contest, you have to submit your entry before the ____.
- ____ 24. Our electric car was expensive, but the purchase price was ____ by savings in fuel.
- ____ 25. The solar ____ on the roof helps to heat the old farmhouse and its water supply.
- ____ 26. To promote higher education, the government provides a(n) ____ for undergraduate housing.
- ____ 27. Although it costs more, this car gets better mileage from ____-grade gasoline.
- ____ 28. His farm ____ enough crops this year to make a huge profit.
- ____ 29. When you compare your new job offer in the city to your existing salary, don't forget to ____ the cost of commuting from your pay.
- ____ 30. The new design for the hotel is ____ because it uses special glass to control the temperature all year round.