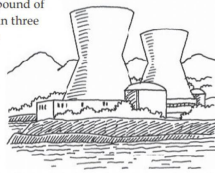


Nuclear Power: The Key to the Future

People all over the world use nuclear energy to make electrical power. Most people would agree that nuclear energy is a workable source of electricity. We have come a long way since nuclear energy was first used in the 1900s. We have learned how to better control nuclear energy. In the future, we may learn even more ways to control it.

Many groups speak in favor of nuclear energy. Actors, athletes, and other famous people have been ambitious in promoting its use. Many of these people have been tireless in their efforts. They have received criticism from people who question its safety.

Some people believe that using nuclear energy could have negative effects on the environment. It is possible, if we are not careful. However, nuclear energy saves natural resources. It gives us more heat and power than other energy sources. Uranium is used to create nuclear energy, which then becomes electricity. Another way to make electricity is by burning coal. One pound of uranium produces more energy than three million pounds of coal. This means fewer resources are used. Also, burning fuels like coal causes air pollution while using uranium to make electricity does not cause pollution.



One problem with nuclear energy still needs to be solved. What do we do with the uranium when it can no longer be used to make electricity? Uranium gives off radiation, or dangerous energy waves, for a long time after it is removed from a power plant. It takes thousands of years before this nuclear material is fully decayed. When all the uranium has wasted away, it is safe. Until then, nuclear material must be handled with care. However, it is possible that we will find a safe way to store used nuclear material.

Indeed, we have little choice, because we will not have huge amounts of natural resources such as coal and oil forever. We must find other ways to create energy. People need to share the same vision of how we will get our energy. Nuclear energy is the key to the future!

- 6 This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A: Read the sentence from the article.

Actors, athletes, and other famous people have been ambitious in promoting its use.

The suffix *-ous* means “full of” or “having.” What does it mean if someone is ambitious?

- (A) That person has respect for other people.
- (B) That person has many fears to overcome.
- (C) That person is determined to succeed.
- (D) That person lies to get his or her way.

Part B: Which other word includes the suffix *-ous*?

- (A) hours
- (B) houses
- (C) joust
- (D) joyous

- 7 Read the sentence from the article.

They have received criticism from people who question its safety.

A *critic* can point out what is wrong. What does it mean to receive criticism?

- (A) to be judged
- (B) to be praised
- (C) to be welcomed
- (D) to be encouraged

- 8 This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A: Which statement **best** describes a point the author makes about nuclear energy?

- (A) Nuclear energy needs to be handled carefully because it can be dangerous.
- (B) Nuclear energy was once dangerous, but it is now completely safe to use.
- (C) Nuclear energy is only dangerous at certain times of the day.
- (D) Nuclear energy never involved any danger at all.

Part B: Which evidence from the text **best** supports your answer in part A?

- (A) It is possible to find a safe way to store nuclear material.
- (B) Uranium gives off radiation, or dangerous energy waves.
- (C) Many groups are in favor of using nuclear energy.
- (D) Burning coal is another way to produce energy.

- 9 Which conclusions can be made about the author’s point of view of nuclear energy? Pick **two** choices.

- (A) Its widespread use is a very long way off.
- (B) It is the answer to our future energy needs.
- (C) It still has problems that need to be solved.
- (D) It will be most successful in the United States.
- (E) It is the best source of energy we will ever have.
- (F) It will have mostly negative effects on the environment.

- 10 The author makes the point that nuclear energy will continue to improve in the future. Write **two** details from the list that support this point.

Author’s Point of View	Nuclear energy will continue to improve.
Details	

Details:

- 1 Burning fuel like coal causes air pollution.
- 2 People have different opinions about using nuclear energy.
- 3 We have learned to control nuclear energy so that it is safer.
- 4 It takes thousands of years for uranium to completely decay.
- 5 Energy resources are decreasing and nuclear energy is needed more than ever.