

Read the text below. For questions (1-5) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

SAVING PLANET EARTH

Is it too late to save the planet? Fiona Gibbons thinks we can do it.

Most people recognise that the Earth is facing some major problems. But whether or not the damage is caused by us, it is up to us to find solutions because those of us who live in industrial societies are certainly not helping the situation.

Global warming is caused by carbon emissions released into the atmosphere, mainly from burning fossil fuels such as oil, coal, and gas. It's crucial to consider how much of these resources we have left and explore alternative energy sources for the future. We can't disregard this problem and leave it for future generations to solve.

We have the technology to use energy from the sun to heat our houses. If we all put solar panels on the roofs of our houses, we will not need to use heating oil. Solar panels make use of energy which costs nothing - energy which is given off by the sun every day. And the latest technology captures daylight, not sunlight, so that even on a cloudy day, or in countries with very little sunshine, we still get free energy.

Wind turbines can generate electricity without producing smog, and are available for purchase by homeowners in many countries. Although they are expensive, they can save enough money on electricity bills to pay for themselves in ten years on average. In windier areas or with larger turbines, homeowners can generate more electricity than they need, and even sell the excess energy back to the electricity company for a profit.

What if you can't afford a solar panel? What if you don't own your own house? Individual efforts are great, but governments need to react to the situation as well. The wind turbines I mentioned above can be gathered together in one place. This is called a wind farm. Together, all these turbines can produce enough electricity for a small town. But these 'green' power stations can only be built if governments decide to spend money on them. Unfortunately, one of the main reasons they don't is that members of the public complain that they are ugly. So this brings the problem back to the individual. What would you rather see out of your window: a wind or wave farm generating electricity under a clear blue sky; or a typical power station with thick black smoke pouring into the atmosphere?

The majority of us take electricity for granted. Most of our homes are powered by it and we rarely give a thought to where it comes from. It's difficult to see that, every time we leave a light on, a power station somewhere is burning fossil fuels and polluting the air that we breathe. We all need to think seriously about this. And if enough people get together, governments will be forced to change their policies. The future of the planet depends on it.

1 The writer says that the energy we get from fossil fuels

A is better than the alternatives.

B is a new source of energy.

C will need to be replaced.

D helps solve a problem.

2 What does the writer say about modern solar panels?

A They work even at night.

B They work when the sun is not shining.

C They are less harmful than older panels.

D They still cause some pollution.

3 What does the writer say about putting a wind turbine on your roof?

A You can sell it when you have finished with it.

B It won't work if it's very windy where you live.

C A small one won't save you any money.

D It's economical in the long term.

4 Wind farms are unpopular because

A people don't like to look at them.

B they only supply urban areas.

C they still pollute the atmosphere.

D governments spend too much money on them.

5 The writer thinks that electricity is something which

A we should learn to live without.

B we should produce in a cleaner way.

C most people think about a lot.

D will not exist in the future.