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?
   a. canals filled with shining water
   b. moonlight glowing on curved pipes
   c. rows of mirrors reflecting the sun
   d. bright lights from Las Vegas

____ 2. Which of these is the final step in the process of power production at Nevada Solar One?
   a. The heat powers a turbine and dynamo.
   b. Electricity enters the power grid.
   c. Pipes absorb heat from the sun.
   d. Oil in the pipes becomes extremely hot.

____ 3. What is the purpose of paragraph E?
   a. to demonstrate that solar power is more than adequate for human needs
   b. to point out that geothermal and wind power have inadequate capacity
   c. to emphasize Germany's pioneering role in solar energy
   d. to argue for installing solar collectors at sea as well as on land

____ 4. Why is electricity from Nevada Solar One competitive in price?
   a. The installation received a federal tax benefit.
   b. The plant met a deadline for renewable power.
   c. The Nevada state legislature pays for it.
   d. Gas and other fossil fuels have become too expensive.

____ 5. What is the main idea in paragraphs I and J?
   a. Solar was not popular in the 1980s.
   b. Photovoltaic panels can provide energy for the whole country.
   c. The use of solar mirrors is decreasing.
   d. There are two main methods of harnessing solar energy.

____ 6. Which of the following sentences is true?
   a. Solar thermal energy (STE) technology uses semiconductors such as silicon.
   b. Photovoltaic (PV) panels are the most widely-used technology in the solar power industry.
   c. Photovoltaic (PV) panels use mirrors to produce thermal energy.
   d. 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.

   a. Paragraph H
   b. Paragraph K
   c. Paragraph N
   d. Paragraph P

____ 8. If you visited Morbach, Germany, what would you see all over the town?

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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.

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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.

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