



Name: Class: Date:

Exercise 4

At present, people depend on unlimited energy to power their everyday lives. A wide range of energy-run devices and modern conveniences are taken for granted, and although it may seem that we will never be in danger of living without those conveniences, the fact is that many supplies of energy are dwindling rapidly. Scientists are constantly searching for new sources of power to keep modern society running. Whether future populations will continue to enjoy the benefit of abundant energy will depend on the success of this search.

Coal, oil, and natural gas supply modern civilization with most of its power. However, not only are supplies of these fuels limited, but they are a major source of pollution. If the energy demands of the future are to be met without seriously harming the environment, existing alternative energy sources must be improved or further explored and developed. These include nuclear, water, solar, wind, and geothermal power, as well as energy from new, nonpolluting types of fuels. Each of these alternatives, however, has advantages and disadvantages.

Nuclear power plants efficiently produce large amounts of electricity without polluting the atmosphere; however, they are costly to build and maintain, and they pose the daunting problem of what to do with nuclear wastes. Hydroelectric power is inexpensive and environmentally safe, but impractical for communities located far from moving water. Harnessing energy from tides and waves has similar drawbacks. Solar power holds great promise for the future but methods of collecting and – concentrating sunlight are as yet inefficient, as are methods of harnessing wind power.

Every source of energy has its disadvantages. One way to minimize them is to use less energy. Conservation efforts coupled with renewable energy resources, such as a combination of solar, water, wind, and geothermal energy and alternative fuels, such as alcohol and hydrogen, will ensure supplies of clean, affordable energy for humanity's future.

1. The passage suggests that _____.

- A. people use energy without giving great thought to where it's coming from.
- B. the search for energy sources is mainly a problem for the future.
- C. scientists believe we will never have to go without our modern conveniences.
- D. modern society requires a minimum amount of energy to keep running.

2. It can be implied from the passage that _____.

- A. most alternative energy sources have proven to be impractical
- B. many alternative energy sources are environmentally hazardous
- C. nuclear power solves one problem while creating others
- D. solar and wind power are not promising for the future

3. From the passage, it can be inferred that to solve our energy problems _____.

- A. we will have to stop using many of our modern conveniences
- B. scientists will have to find one major source of nonpolluting energy
- C. scientists will have to find ways to increase our supplies of coal, oil and gas
- D. a combination of conservation and invention will be needed

4. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage? _____

- A. The search for alternative energy sources is not over.
- B. Our present energy sources must be eliminated and replaced with alternatives sources.
- C. Alternative sources of energy on this planet are very limited.
- D. Demand for energy in the future are likely to decrease.

5. Which of the following is NOT true according to the passage? _____

- A. The amount of fossil fuels in the world is limited.
- B. Most alternative energy sources are environmentally friendly.
- C. Hydroelectric power is impractical because of its being money consuming.
- D. It is impossible to use wind power efficiently at present.

