PASSAGE 54

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CO_2 plays a critical role in maintaining the balance in the Earth's atmosphere and the air that we breathe. Because we create CO_2 every time we drive a car, cook a meal or turn on a light, and because the gas lasts around a century in the atmosphere, the CO_2 in the atmosphere is **rapidly** increasing. Scientists say that we need to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 70 per cent by 2050 and 80% by the end of 21st century. If you own a four-wheel-drive car, you should use a hybrid car - a car that powered by a combination of electricity and petrol - or a smaller standard-fuel car.

Not only do fossil fuels pose an environmental threat but there is also a pressing about finding an alternative energy source that is renewable. Opinions as to how much oil remains vary considerably. Some say that the Earth has produced only 18 per cent of its potential yield of oil; others say supplies may run out as early as 2015. Many countries are exploring **alternative** energy sources such as solar energy or wind power, which uses large turbines to capture the energy of the wind.

Question 1: What is the main topic of the passage?

A. The importance of CO_2 and renewable energy sources.

B. The history of fossil fuels and their environmental impact.

C. The effects of cooking and driving on CO_2 levels.

D. The benefits of hybrid cars over traditional vehicles.

Question 2: According to the passage, what percentage reduction in carbon dioxide emissions is necessary by 2050?

A. 50% B. 70% C. 80% D. 90%

Question 3: What does the passage suggest about the use of hybrid cars?

A. They are more harmful to the environment than four-wheel-drive cars.

B. They have been banned in many countries.

C. They are less efficient than standard fuel cars.

D. They are a more environmentally friendly alternative to normal cars.

Question 4: The word "**rapidly**" in the passage is opposite in meaning to _____.

A. slowly B. quickly C. immediately D. gradually

Question 5: The word "**alternative**" in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.

A. The best possible choice available.

B. Something that is the same as another thing we had before.

C. Another choice that can be made instead of the old one.

D. An extra or additional option that is not necessary.

LIVEWORKSHEETS