

# 6.4 Distribution of Natural Energy Resources

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Total: 10 marks

## Objective

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Build the skills to answer exam questions on the **distribution of natural energy resources**.

**You must be able to:**

- explain that energy resources are **unevenly distributed** 分布不均
- link distribution to geology and geography
- discuss the consequences for trade and security

## 1 Worked examples

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Study these first. Each one shows the method for a question type used later—follow the steps and you can do the Practice and Exam-style questions yourself.

### ■ Uneven distribution

Energy resources are **unevenly spread** across the world because they depend on **geology and geography**:

- **Fossil fuels** form where ancient organic matter was buried (specific oil/coal regions).
- **Solar** is best in sunny low latitudes; **wind** where it is consistently windy; **geothermal** near plate boundaries; **hydro** where there are large rivers.

### ■ Consequences

Countries with few resources must **import** energy, affecting **trade**, prices, and **energy security**. Rich deposits can bring wealth but also conflict.

### ■ A worked link

A country near a tectonic boundary can use **geothermal** energy, while a flat, calm, cloudy country may rely on imports or other sources.

## 2 Practice

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Now apply the methods above.

**2.1** Why are energy resources unevenly distributed? [1]

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**2.2** Where is geothermal energy most available? [1]

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**2.3** What must a country with few energy resources often do? [1]

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### 3 Exam-style questions

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**3.1** Solar power is most available in regions that are [1]

- **A** cloudy and dark
  - **B** sunny (often low latitude)
  - **C** near the poles only
  - **D** underground
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**3.2** A country has strong, steady coastal winds but no fossil fuels.

(a) Suggest a suitable energy source. [1]

(b) Explain how uneven resource distribution affects a country's energy choices and security. [3]

**3.3** Explain why a nation near a plate boundary might develop geothermal energy. [2]

### 4 Go further

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You are now ready for the real exam questions on this subtopic:

- work through the **6.4 Distribution of Natural Energy Resources** lesson on the **Learn** page;
- read the **Distribution of Natural Energy Resources** section of the AP Environmental Science handout on the **Know** page.

## Solutions

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**2.1** They depend on geology and geography, which vary from place to place.

**2.2** Near plate boundaries / volcanic regions.

**2.3** Import energy.

**3.1 B** —sunny (often low latitude).

**3.2** (a) Wind energy. (b) A country uses the resources its geography provides; those lacking resources must import, which affects trade, prices, and energy security (dependence on others).

**3.3** Near a plate boundary, heat from the Earth is close to the surface, so geothermal energy can be tapped to generate power.