

6.5 Fossil Fuels

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 10 marks**KEY WORDS** fossil fuels 化石燃料 • dam 大坝

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on **fossil fuels**.**You must be able to:**

- describe how **fossil fuels** 化石燃料 form and are used
- explain their environmental impacts (CO₂, pollution, extraction)
- state advantages and disadvantages

1 Worked examples

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.

■ Formation and use

Fossil fuels (coal, oil, natural gas) formed from ancient organisms buried and compressed over millions of years. They are burned to release energy — the world's main energy source.

■ Advantages

- **High energy density** (a lot of energy per unit).
- **Cheap** and reliable with existing infrastructure.

■ Disadvantages

- Burning releases **CO₂** (climate change) and pollutants (SO₂, particulates → acid rain, smog).
- **Extraction** damages land and water (mining, oil spills, fracking).
- **Nonrenewable** — will run out.

■ A worked judgement

Coal is cheap and energy-dense but produces the most CO₂ and air pollution of the fossil fuels, so it has the greatest climate impact.

2 Practice

Now apply the methods above.

2.1 How do fossil fuels form? [1]

2.2 State one advantage of fossil fuels. [1]

2.3 State one environmental disadvantage. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Burning fossil fuels contributes to climate change mainly by releasing [1]

A	B
C	D

- A oxygen
B carbon dioxide
C water only
D nitrogen gas

3.2 A country generates most of its electricity from coal.

(a) State two environmental impacts. [2]

(b) Explain one reason it still relies on coal despite these impacts. [2]

3.3 Explain why fossil fuels are described as a finite resource. [2]