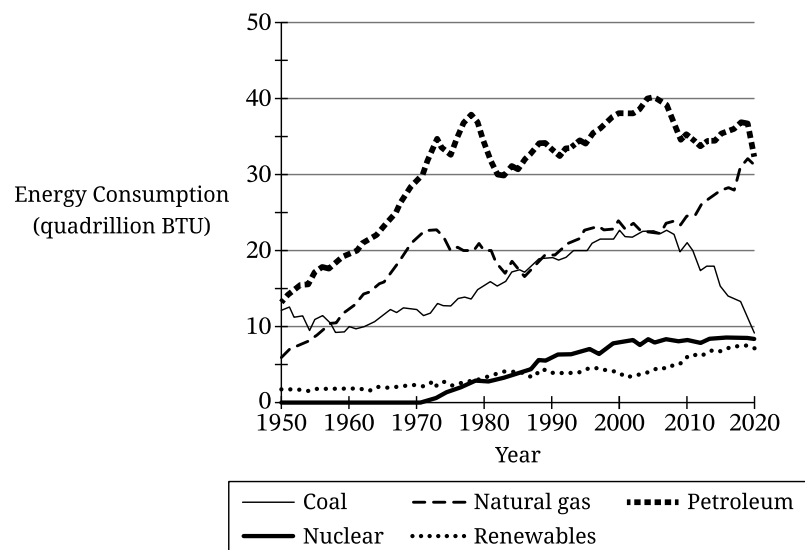


The following information applies to parts A, B, C, D, E, F, and G.

The following graph shows the number of quadrillion British thermal units (BTUs) that were consumed in the United States using five different energy sources from 1950 to 2020.

Energy Consumption by Source in the United States, 1950–2020



The following information applies to parts H and I.

Researchers studied an aquatic ecosystem near an area of land that had been converted to agricultural use. They reported an increase in nutrients, such as nitrates and phosphates, in the water.

2. Respond to parts A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, and I, and all subparts.

Part A

Identify one renewable energy source that is used to generate electricity.

Part B

Based on the data in the graph, **identify** the energy source that had the highest consumption in 2010.

Part C

Based on the data in the graph, **describe** the pattern in the energy consumption from coal in the United States from 1960 to 2020.

Part D

Based on the data in the graph and your knowledge of energy consumption, **explain** one likely reason why the use of coal for energy changed between 2010 and 2020.

Part E

Explain how fossil fuels are used to generate electricity.

Part F

In addition to fossil fuels, nuclear power can be used to generate electricity. **Identify** one negative impact associated with nuclear energy.

Part G

Fossil fuel combustion leads to ocean warming. **Describe** one environmental problem other than coral bleaching that is associated with warming oceans.

Part H

Explain how an increase in nutrients, such as nitrates and phosphates, can negatively affect an aquatic ecosystem.

Part I

- i. **Propose** a realistic solution that would reduce nutrient pollution of waterways, while still allowing cultivation of crops.
- ii. **Justify** the solution proposed in part I (i) by explaining one potential advantage other than reducing nutrient runoff.

The local government of a newly built town has contracted with an electrical company to provide energy to the town. The company generates electricity primarily through the burning of coal and has built a new power plant for the town. A nearby deposit of coal was discovered close to the surface. To access the coal, the company decides to remove the overburden and vegetation over the deposit.

3. Respond to parts A, B, C, D, E, F, and G.

A. Identify a type of surface mining the company could use to access the coal.

B. Describe an environmental problem associated with surface mining.

C. The town is located downwind of the new coal-burning power plant.

Describe an environmental problem the town could experience as a result of the electricity generation at the coal-burning power plant.

D. The local government is concerned about the environmental consequences of using coal to generate electricity for the town.

Propose a realistic solution the local government could enact that would reduce the negative environmental consequences of using coal to generate electricity.

E. Burning one pound of coal produces an average of 0.88 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity. An average household in the United States uses 1.064×10^4 kWh of electricity each year.

Calculate how many pounds of coal would need to be burned to generate enough electricity to power a town with 11,000 houses for a year. **Show** your work.

F. Researchers are concerned about the impact of noise pollution on songbirds in a forest near the power plant. Since the power plant was installed, bird species richness has declined from 7.5 species per hectare to 6.0 species per hectare.

Calculate the percent change in bird species per hectare since the power plant was installed. **Show** your work.

G. The town has been growing since it was built and had a growth rate of 5.38% in 2022, with a population of 26,250.

Assuming that the growth rate remains constant, **calculate** the year in which the population will reach 52,500. **Show** your work.

STOP
END OF EXAM

3. Earth's climate has changed over time by the addition of greenhouse gasses to the atmosphere. One approach to mitigate climate change is the use of nuclear power, rather than coal-burning power plants, for electricity generation.

(a) **Identify** a fuel used in a nuclear power plant.

(b) **Describe** a negative environmental impact on nearby bodies of water that is caused by using water for cooling in nuclear power plants.

(c) In 2021, 4.1×10^{12} kilowatt hours (kWh) of commercial electricity was generated in the United States.

Nuclear power accounted for 18.9% of the total commercial electricity. **Calculate** the amount of electricity in kWh generated by nuclear power in the United States in 2021. **Show** your work.

Another approach to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is to switch from coal-burning power plants to natural gas power plants.

(d) In addition to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, **describe** how switching from coal-burning power plants to natural gas power plants will improve air quality.

Researchers have proposed large-scale tree planting as a solution to reduce the effects of fossil fuel combustion on global climate change.

(e) **Justify** the proposed solution by explaining an additional advantage, other than the reduction of atmospheric greenhouse gases.

(f) 7.4×10^7 cubic meters of natural gas were extracted from a large deposit in 2020. An average of 4.76 kWh of electricity can be generated from each cubic meter of natural gas combusted. In 2020, an average home consumed 10,715 kWh of electricity. **Calculate** how many homes could have been provided with electricity by natural gas extracted from the large deposit in 2020. **Show** your work.

(g) In 2021, 8.99×10^{11} kWh of electricity was generated through the combustion of coal. One kilogram of carbon dioxide is produced per kWh of electricity generated by combusting coal, while 0.42 kilograms of carbon dioxide is produced by combusting natural gas. **Calculate** how much less carbon dioxide would have been produced in 2021 if all coal-burning power plants were replaced with natural gas-burning power plants. **Show** your work.

Begin your response to this question at the top of a new page in the separate Free Response booklet and fill in the appropriate circle at the top of each page to indicate the question number.

STOP

END OF EXAM

3. Crude oil is extracted, transported, and refined for various uses by humans.

- (a) **Describe** one environmental impact on marine ecosystems associated with extraction or transportation of crude oil.
- (b) **Identify** an atmospheric pollutant released during the combustion of refined oil products.
- (c) **Propose** a solution an individual can use to reduce their reliance on refined oil products for transportation.
- (d) **Justify** the solution proposed in part (c) by providing a benefit to human health.

Other natural resources, such as gold and silver, are also extracted. These resources can be used to make components for the electronics humans use. One metric ton of gold ore contains 5.0 grams of gold.

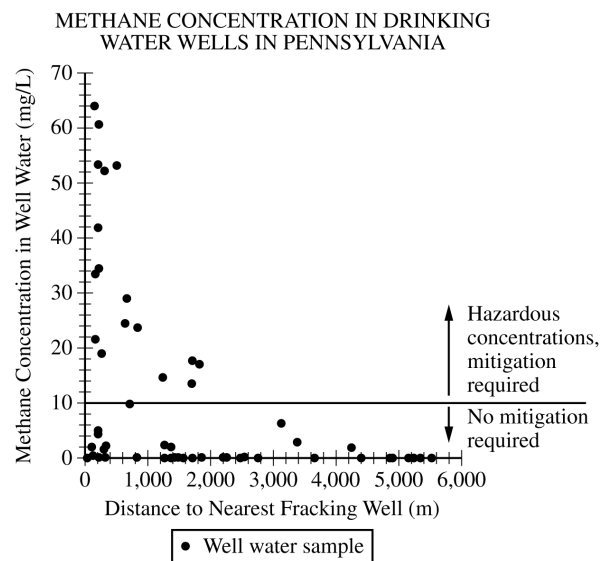
- (e) A deposit is estimated to contain 260 million metric tons of gold ore. **Calculate** the number of grams of gold that could be extracted from the deposit. **Show** your work.
- (f) Assuming the price of gold is \$62.56 per gram, **calculate** the value of the gold that could be recovered from 1,000 metric tons of gold ore in the deposit. **Show** your work.
- (g) A typical cell phone contains 0.034 grams of gold. **Calculate** how many metric tons of gold ore would need to be mined to extract enough gold to manufacture 100,000 cell phones. **Show** your work.

Begin your response to this question at the top of a new page in the separate Free Response booklet and fill in the appropriate circle at the top of each page to indicate the question number.

STOP

END OF EXAM

2. Developments in advanced hydraulic fracturing (fracking) technologies have allowed the total oil and gas production in the United States to increase rapidly.



- (a) The graph shows the methane concentration in drinking water from home wells and the distance to the nearest fracking well in Pennsylvania.
- Based on the data in the graph, **identify** the highest methane concentration found in well water in Pennsylvania.
 - Based on the data in the graph, **describe** the relationship between the concentration of methane in well water and the distance to a fracking well.
 - Based on the data in the graph, **identify** the minimum safe distance that a new water well should be located from an existing fracking well.
 - Explain** how fracking fluid is used to access oil and natural gas in sedimentary rock, such as shale, during the fracking process.
 - Identify** one negative geologic effect in an area where hydraulic fracturing (fracking) occurs.
- (b) The volume of water used for oil and gas extraction is 28 times greater than it was fifteen years ago. Much of the water used for oil and gas extraction comes from groundwater sources in arid or semiarid regions. This increased use of water for fracking may mean that less water is available for local use.
- The use of groundwater for fracking is an example of individuals using a shared resource for their own self-interest. **Identify** the environmental concept illustrated by this example of overuse of a shared resource.
 - Describe** one environmental problem that may result from increased use of groundwater for fracking in arid or semiarid regions.
 - Describe** how overuse of coastal groundwater supplies can result in water that is unsuitable for human consumption.

- (c) In addition to water quality issues caused by fossil fuel extraction, air quality can also be negatively affected by combustion of oil and natural gas.
- Make a claim** for a realistic governmental action to improve air quality by reducing consumption of oil.
 - Justify** the action proposed in part (c)(i) by stating a potential environmental advantage of that action, other than slowing global climate change.

Begin your response to this question at the top of a new page in the separate Free Response booklet and fill in the appropriate circle at the top of each page to indicate the question number.

3. Approximately 350 coal-fired power plants in the United States are older than the 30-year anticipated life-span for a coal generator. One problem with these aging power plants is that many lack the necessary modern air pollution controls. Additionally, there are concerns about rising fuel costs, so many utility companies are planning to retire coal-fired plants and build new natural-gas power plants.

- (a) **Describe** why coal is considered a nonrenewable energy source.
- (b) **Describe** one potential environmental advantage of replacing a coal-fired power plant with a natural-gas power plant.
- (c) **Describe** one economic advantage of using natural gas, rather than coal, in producing electricity.
- (d) When natural gas is used to heat homes, it can produce carbon monoxide gas, which can lead to carbon monoxide poisoning in humans. **Propose** a solution to reduce the incidence of carbon monoxide poisoning in humans.

Particulate matter is another common pollutant in emissions from vehicles, coal-fired power plants, and various other sources. One size of particulates, $PM_{2.5}$, presents a particular risk to human health.

ATMOSPHERIC CONCENTRATION OF PARTICULATE MATTER IN 1990 AND 2016

Year	Average Annual Atmospheric Concentration of $PM_{2.5}$ ($\mu g/m^3$)
1990	85
2016	188

- (e) **Calculate** the percent change in the average annual $PM_{2.5}$ concentration in the air from 1990 to 2016. **Show** your work.
- (f) Trees can remove $PM_{2.5}$ from the atmosphere when particulates settle on the leaves and are subsequently washed onto soil by rain. The average annual removal of $PM_{2.5}$ is 2.3 kilograms per hectare. **Calculate** the decrease in $PM_{2.5}$ removal in kilograms if logging reduced a forested area from 50,000 hectares to 43,000 hectares. **Show** your work.
- (g) Research has shown that hospital admissions for cardiovascular problems increase 1% with every 10% increase in $PM_{2.5}$ concentration. A city experienced a 23% increase in $PM_{2.5}$ concentration and had 7,390 hospital admissions for cardiovascular issues over a one-year period. **Calculate** the anticipated increase in the number of hospital admissions for cardiovascular issues during the next year if the $PM_{2.5}$ concentration continues to rise at an identical rate. **Show** your work.

Begin your response to this question at the top of a new page in the separate Free Response booklet and fill in the appropriate circle at the top of each page to indicate the question number.

STOP

END OF EXAM

2. As conventional sources of crude oil are depleted, unconventional sources such as oil sands (also known as tar sands) are being utilized. Oils sands contain bitumen, which can be processed into a synthetic crude oil. A region of boreal forest in Alberta, Canada, that covers a deposit of oil sands will be cut and removed during the process of bitumen extraction. It is estimated that the deposit contains 73 billion barrels of recoverable bitumen. The rate of extraction from the deposit will be approximately 1 million barrels of bitumen per day.
- (a) **Identify** one ecological benefit, other than providing habitat, that is provided by forests.
 - (b) **Identify** one economic benefit that is provided by forests.
 - (c) **Describe** TWO environmental consequences, other than those related to the loss of boreal forest habitat, that result from the extraction of bitumen or the transportation of synthetic oil to customers.
 - (d) Assuming the above extraction rate, **calculate** how many days will be needed to extract the recoverable volume of bitumen from the oil sands.
 - (e) **Calculate** how many years will be needed to fully extract the recoverable volume of bitumen from the oil sands.
 - (f) Monthly production of synthetic crude oil is 30 million barrels. Producing one barrel of synthetic crude oil uses two barrels of heated freshwater. **Calculate** the number of barrels of freshwater needed each year to supply this demand.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

SECTION II

Time—1 hour and 30 minutes

4 Questions

Directions: Answer all four questions, which are weighted equally; the suggested time is about 22 minutes for answering each question. Write all your answers on the pages following the questions in this book. Where calculations are required, clearly show how you arrived at your answer. Where explanation or discussion is required, support your answers with relevant information and/or specific examples.

1. Read the following article from the *Fremont Daily Times* and answer the questions that follow.

Fremont Daily Times

May 1, 2018

GREEN IS THE NEW SCHOOL COLOR AT FREMONT HIGH SCHOOL!

A group of students from Fremont High School addressed the city council last night and proposed that one of the existing buildings at Fremont High School, which was built in 1970, be renovated to take advantage of recent advances in green technology. Currently the heat for the school is provided by fossil fuel combustion. The students said that the redesigned building would reduce the school's carbon footprint, which is a measure of the amount of carbon dioxide and other carbon compounds released by various human activities. Incorporating specific features that conserve energy and utilize

renewable energy sources can help reduce the carbon footprint.

Councilperson Gail Fassler praised the idea, saying that the project could conserve local water resources, reduce the need for consuming new resources, and act as a “shining beacon” of sustainability for the greater Fremont community. Fassler suggested the project could even incorporate a living green roof as an additional sustainable feature. The council approved the initial site planning request and urged students to report back when the project was under way.

- (a) The students want to reduce the school's carbon footprint.
 - (i) **Define** carbon footprint.
 - (ii) **Identify** one way the school's heating system is likely adding to the school's carbon footprint.
 - (iii) **Describe** one realistic way to reduce the contribution of the heating system to the school's carbon footprint.
- (b) **Identify** TWO environmental benefits of a living green roof, such as that suggested by Councilperson Fassler.
- (c) **Describe** TWO practices the cafeteria's food service could use to decrease the environmental impacts of Fremont High School.
- (d) **Discuss** TWO benefits of using native plants for landscaping at Fremont High School.
- (e) During the renovation, the carpeting must be replaced. **Discuss** one environmental benefit of using flooring made of plant material, such as cork or bamboo, instead of carpet made of synthetic fibers.

2. Iron ores are rocks from which metallic iron can be extracted for steel production. This process involves several steps. Iron ore is first mined and then turned into pig iron in a blast furnace, and some rock waste such as silicon dioxide is separated out. In the final step, the pig iron is refined into steel using a process that includes reacting the molten pig iron with oxygen to remove impurities.

(a) Use the data below to respond to the following. For each calculation, show all your work.

Global Iron and Steel Data
1.6 billion tons of iron ore are used yearly to make pig iron.
1.2 billion tons of pig iron are produced each year.
Iron ore reserves are estimated to be 800 billion tons.
95% of iron ore that is mined is used in steel production.

- (i) **Calculate** the weight (in tons) of rock waste produced globally each year when iron ore is converted to pig iron.
- (ii) **Calculate** the weight (in tons) of pig iron that could be produced if all of the estimated global iron ore reserves were used for pig iron production.
- (iii) **Calculate** the weight (in tons) of the current global iron ore reserves that would be used to make steel if the current trends continue.

Both iron ore and coal are mined for use in the manufacture of steel. It is estimated that for every ton of steel recycled, 1.25 fewer tons of iron ore and 0.7 fewer tons of coal must be mined. About 80 million tons of steel are recycled each year in North America.

- (b) **Calculate** the weight (in tons) of coal that is conserved each year in North America by recycling steel.

Before the year 1900, most mining companies abandoned surface and subsurface coal mine sites once the resource was depleted.

- (c) **Describe** TWO environmental problems that are associated with abandoned coal mine sites.
- (d) **Describe** one method that can be used to mitigate one of the problems you identified in part (c).
- (e) **Discuss** one reason why surface coal mining is generally less expensive than subsurface mining.