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Question: 1

In a modern steam power plant, water is pumped out of the condenser and into a

- A. furnace.
- B. high-pressure heater.
- C. low-pressure heater.
- D. turbine.

Answer: C

Explanation:

This information is in the third sentence of the fourth paragraph.

Question: 2

When the passage mentions in the second paragraph that ash will be "shunted," what is the closest synonym?

- A. moved
- B. destroyed
- C. burnt
- D. purchased

Answer: A

Explanation:

The passage says that ash is "shunted to the back of the furnace: meaning that it is moved there.

Question: 3

What is the main purpose of this passage?

- A. To advocate the construction of new steam power plants
- B. To describe how the primary energy source arrives at a steam power plant
- C. To entertain the reader with a story about steam power
- D. To explain the operation of a modern steam power plant

Answer: D

Explanation:

This is clear from the first sentence of the passage, "A modern steam power plant is fairly simple in its operation."

Question: 4

Why is cool water circulated around the condenser?

- A. So that the water can be reheated
- B. Because keeping the condenser cool helps it turn the steam back into water
- C. To prevent it from escaping the facility
- D. To power the condenser's operation

Answer: B

Explanation:

The first sentence of the last paragraph mentions that cool water is circulated "throughout the facility, but especially around the condenser." The second sentence of the fourth paragraph describes how a steam power plant uses condensers to turn steam back into water.

Question: 5

What is the primary subject of the last paragraph?

- A. the steam that spins the turbines
- B. the water used to cool the plant
- C. the employees of the plant
- D. the water used to spin the turbines

Answer: B

Explanation:

The last paragraph discusses how cool water is circulated through a steam power plant to cool the equipment, in particular the condenser.

Question: 6

The subject of this passage is

- A. subductive waste disposal.
- B. nuclear power plants.
- C. nuclear waste disposal.
- D. nuclear power.

Answer: C

Explanation:

The passage begins by describing the origins of nuclear waste and then details some possible solutions to this problem.

Question: 7

Which of the following harmful gases is produced by nuclear power plants?

- A. carbon dioxide
- B. sulfur dioxide
- C. nitrogen dioxide
- D. None of the above

Answer: D

Explanation:

This information is given in the second and third sentences of the third paragraph.

Question: 8

Which of the following sentences best asserts the main idea of the passage?

- A. "However, nuclear plants do generate hazardous waste."
- B. "Despite its bad reputation in the United States, nuclear power has some advantages for the environment over other sources of energy."
- C. "Oil, coal, and natural gas all release carbon dioxide and other gases that contribute to global warming, but nuclear power does not."
- D. "Moreover, there are thousands of nuclear power plants around the world, so the total amount of high-level nuclear waste is significant:

Answer: A

Explanation:

The focus of the article is nuclear waste and its disposal.

Question: 9

Which of the following statements about nuclear power in the United States is true?

- A. All of the nuclear waste in the United States is disposed of in the same way.
- B. There are a number of active breeder reactors in the United States.
- C. The United States employs several different methods for nuclear waste disposal.
- D. The United States is the only country to use subductive waste disposal techniques.

Answer: C

Explanation:

This is stated in the first sentence of the third paragraph.

Question: 10

Which method of nuclear waste disposal involves creating a new form of nuclear fuel?

- A. mixed oxide
- B. subductive waste disposal
- C. hazardous waste sequestration
- D. geologic repository

Answer: A

Explanation:

The final paragraph describes the mixed-oxide method, in which weapons-grade plutonium is mixed with uranium.

Question: 11

When one tectonic plate slides underneath another, it is called

- A. repository.
- B. inferiority.
- C. sequestration.
- D. subduction.

Answer: D

Explanation:

Subduction is never directly defined, but its meaning may be inferred from the context of the fourth paragraph.

Question: 12

What is the main problem with subductive waste disposal?

- A. Tectonic plates move too slowly.
- B. It requires plutonium to be converted into uranium.
- C. Subduction occurs too quickly.
- D. It is susceptible to contamination by groundwater.

Answer: A

Explanation:

The fourth paragraph of this passage describes subductive waste disposal. In the second-to-last sentence, it states that "the rate at which tectonic plates move is so slow (a few centimeters a year) that subductive waste disposal has largely been dismissed."

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