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Durée : 02 heures

Série : S3 - Coeff. : 02

Epreuve du 1^{er} Groupe**ANGLAIS**

5 Nuclear energy has always had its proponents, their ranks reinforced now by people who dislike the technology but believe it may be essential. **They** point out that a reactor emits virtually no carbon dioxide (CO₂), the main greenhouse gas released from human activities (though of course building the power station produces a lot of CO₂). They say nuclear power is safe, and that the 1957 Windscale fire in the UK, Three Mile Island in the US in 1979, and even Chernobyl have killed massively fewer people than the oil and coal industries. Beyond that, they say modern reactors are inherently far safer than those built 20 or 30 years ago, reducing a small risk still further. Supporters say uranium prices have remained steady for decades, meaning nuclear energy is far more secure than fossil fuels can ever be. And they

10 argue that modern nuclear power systems are far more economic than the older versions, and are therefore a good investment. And yet **their** opponents insist that, if nuclear power really is the answer, then we must be asking the wrong question. There is an inevitable link between civil and military atoms, they retort. If we say we need them to stave off² climate change, then so can countries like Iran and North Korea -and there is no impermeable barrier

15 between electricity and bombs. They say nuclear energy is economic only under a very restricted analysis -by the time you have added up the costs of construction, insurance, waste disposal and decommissioning, you need huge subsidies. And, opponents ask, what happens to the waste? The only answer we have come up with so far entails storing the most radioactive waste under guard for millennia, until it has decayed to safe levels.

20 I once heard from a British Environment Secretary, Chris (now Lord) Patten, a telling definition of the problem. "Nuclear power ? To most people, it's witchcraft," **he** told his hearers. Most of us worry far more about something that we see as very unlikely but grotesquely horrible than we do about what we perceive as far likelier but much more mundane. We have a horror of dying in an air crash, but not of driving to the airport along far more dangerous roads. We fear radioactive death, but cock an insouciant snook³ at the risk

25 of dying painfully from the effects of smoking, or obesity, or alcohol. To that degree our distrust of nuclear energy may be partly irrational. In other ways, though, it makes very good sense.

By Alex Kirby, Story from BBC NEWS : Published : 2005 /10 /17 © BBC MMVI

Notes :

1. to stave off (line 19) : écarter, conjurer (un danger)
2. cock a snook at (line 36) : ne pas se soucier de ...

I. COMPREHENSION (08 points)**A. Answer the questions (02 points)**

1. Why do the proponents of nuclear energy think that nuclear power is a very economic source of energy ?
2. Why do the opponents of nuclear energy say that nuclear power is far from being economic?

B. Decide whether the following statements are true or false and justify with quotations from the text (03 points)

3. People fear nuclear power because nuclear accidents cause more deaths than any other accident.
4. According to the author, nuclear energy will soon be commonly used.
5. We feel more confident with the dangerous things we know than with those we don't know.

C. Vocabulary in context : Find in the text words that have the same meaning as the following. (01 point)

6. regular
7. liberated
8. so
9. answer

D. References : What do the following words refer to? (02 points)

10. they (they point out that ...l.2)
11. their (And yet their opponents insist ...l.11)
12. I (I once heard ...)
13. he (he told his hearers ...)

II. LINGUISTIC COMPETENCE (08 points)**E. Multiple choice questions : Choose the letter corresponding to the appropriate answer. (02 points)**

14. We stayed in Dakar two weeks.

- a). since b). for c). in

15. I'll make him back the money.

- a). to pay b). paying c). pay

16. It wasn't easy for him to get used to in a foreign country.

- a). living b). live c). lived

17. When I was at school I used to a uniform.

- a). wearing b). wear c). to be worn in

F Sentence transformation: rewrite the following sentences using the proposed beginnings (02 points)

18. The inspectors visited the nuclear plant two months ago.

It is

19. The developed countries will do anything, but this won't prevent Iran from developing its nuclear technology.

No matter.....

20. They regret not attending the Kyoto Summit on climate change.

They wish.....

21. The authorities will to take measures against air pollution.

Measures.....

G. Write the verbs in brackets in the correct forms or tenses (02 points)

22. They said they (to visit) the nuclear site two years back.

23. At the end of his letter, Musa says that he's looking forward to (hear) from his friend.

24. She will send them a message as soon as she (to get) home.

25. They say they want to have their car (to repair) by the mechanic.

H. Jumbled sentences : Re-order the words to make intelligible sentences (02 points)

26. /can /simply as /and /quantities /mathematics /defined /study /the /relations /be /of /.

27. /by 2030 /today /will /62% /CO2 emissions /that /it /higher /estimated /than /is /world /be /.

III. ESSAY : Choose one topic and write an essay of about 150 words. (04 points)

1. In this age of global warming and climate change, the need for safe and sustainable energy sources is crucial. What source or sources do you think are good for both the economy and the environment?

2. Countries like Iran and North Korea have been denied the right to develop nuclear technology by the European Union and the USA. The main reason is that those countries are thought to be governed by dangerous regimes. Do the EU and the USA have the right to prevent any country from developing nuclear technology ? Why ?

ANSWER KEY

I. COMPREHENSION

(08 points)

A. Answer the questions

(02 points)

1. The proponents of nuclear energy think that nuclear power is a very economic source of energy because they say uranium prices have remained steady for decades
2. The opponents of nuclear energy say that nuclear power is far from being economic because of the costs of construction, insurance, waste disposal and decommissioning it involves.

B. Decide whether the following statements are true or false and justify with quotations from the text

(03 points)

3. **False** : "... and that the 1957 Windscale fire in the UK, Three Mile Island in the US in 1979, and even Chernobyl have killed massively fewer people than the oil and coal industries..."
4. **False** : " given the long planning and construction lead times, it would be a good decade or so before we saw any new power stations, even if we decided to go ahead today."
5. **True** :
 - ✓ "Most of us worry far more about something that we see as very unlikely but grotesquely horrible than we do about what we perceive as far likelier but much more mundane".
 - ✓ "We have a horror of dying in an air crash, but not of driving to the airport along far more dangerous roads".
 - ✓ "We fear radioactive death, but cock an insouciant snook at the risk of dying painfully from the effects of smoking, or obesity, or alcohol".

C. Vocabulary in context : Find in the text words that have the same meaning as the following :

(01 point)

6. regular = steady
7. liberated = released
8. so = therefore
9. answer = retort

D. References : What do the following words refer to?

(02 points)

10. they (they point out that ...) refers to **its proponents**
11. their (And yet their opponents insist ...) refers to **the supporters'**
12. I (I once heard ...) refers to **Alex Kirby or the author**
13. he (he told his hearers ...) refers to **a British Environment Secretary or Chris Patten**

II. LINGUISTIC COMPETENCE (08 points)

E. Multiple choice questions : Choose the letter corresponding to the appropriate answer.

(02 points)

14. We stayed in Dakar two weeks. **b/.** : for
15. I'll make him back the money. **c/.** : pay
16. " It wasn't easy for him to get used to in a foreign country. **a/.** : living
17. When I was at school I used to uniform. **b/.** : wear

F. Sentence transformation : rewrite the following sentences using the proposed beginnings **(02 points)**

18. It is two months since the inspectors visited the nuclear plant
19. No matter what the developed countries do, this won't prevent Iran from developing its nuclear technology.
20. They wish they had attended the Kyoto Summit on climate change. "
21. Measures will be taken by the authorities against air pollution

G. Write the verbs in brackets in the correct form or tense **(02 points)**

22. They said they **(had) visited** the nuclear site two years back.
23. At the end of his letter Musa says that he's looking forward to **hearing** from his friend.
24. She will send them a message as soon as she **gets** home.
25. They say they want to have their car **repaired** by the mechanic.

H. Jumbled sentences : Re-order the words to make intelligible English sentences **(02 points)**

26. Mathematics can be defined simply as the study of quantities and relations
27. , it is estimated that by 2030 world CO₂ emissions will be higher than today

III. ESSAY : Choose one topic and write an essay of about 150 words. (04 points)

Consider the following :

- ✓ Presentation
- ✓ Vocabulary
- ✓ Ideas (coherence)
- ✓ Grammar (accuracy).