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Question: 1

What is the main purpose of this passage?

- A. To demonstrate why conductors are better than insulators
- B. To amuse the reader
- C. To describe insulators and conductors
- D. To give some examples of insulators and conductors

Answer: C

Explanation:

This is evident from the first sentence, which begins by noting that "Materials may be classified as insulators or conductors." The rest of the passage describes the behavior and uses of these materials.

Question: 2

Name the unique feature of selenium that makes it useful in photocopiers.

- A. Selenium conducts electricity when it is in gas form.
- B. Selenium conducts a charge when light shines on it, but is an insulator in the dark.
- C. Selenium can be fused onto paper with heat.
- D. Selenium creates an effective seal once the ink is on the page.

Answer: B

Explanation:

The third sentence of the third paragraph states that selenium is a photoconductor, which the previous sentence has defined as "a material that is an insulator in the dark, but will conduct a charge when light shines upon it."

Question: 3

Materials that are neither insulators nor conductors are known as

- A. photocopiers.
- B. electronics.
- C. semi-insulators.
- D. semiconductors.

Answer: D

Explanation:

This information is given in the first two sentences of the last paragraph.

Question: 4

What is the primary intention of this passage?

- A. To advocate the construction of more steam power plants
- B. To amuse the reader with a story about steam engines
- C. To explain the origins of the Industrial Revolution
- D. To describe how steam is used to generate power

Answer: D

Explanation:

The passage describes the operation of steam turbines and the use of steam power plants.

Question: 5

Which of the following would be the best location for a steam power plant?

- A. A large pond alongside a major highway
- B. A major city
- C. An isolated lake at high altitude
- D. A swamp near an airport

Answer: A

Explanation:

The fourth sentence of the final paragraph states that steam power plants "usually must be placed near bodies of water." The third sentence of the second paragraph, meanwhile, states that these plants "can be built almost anywhere, which means that they can be positioned strategically to minimize transportation costs." Therefore, of the given answer choices, a large pond alongside a major highway" would be best.

Question: 6

With regard to steam engines, what does "reciprocating" mean?

- A. The engines require less water.
- B. Steam flows in two different directions
- C. The steam emerges from two different holes.
- D. The engine requires frequent lubrication.

Answer: B

Explanation:

This definition is given in the second sentence of the second paragraph.

Question: 7

Which of the following is NOT a major disadvantage of steam power plants?

- A. Steam power plants require expensive fuel.
- B. Steam power plants are expensive to operate.
- C. Steam power plants require a huge amount of water
- D. Steam power plants lose most of the heat they generate through combustion.

Answer: A

Explanation:

The second sentence of the second paragraph states explicitly that steam power plants do not require expensive fuel. The other answer choices are real disadvantages and are all mentioned in the third paragraph.

Question: 8

Who would be the most likely intended audience for this passage?

- A. experienced engineers
- B. general public
- C. school teachers
- D. children

Answer: B

Explanation:

This article is written in common language, and presumes no special knowledge on the part of the reader. It is too advanced for children, however.

Question: 9

Which of the following sentences best illustrates the efficiency of a steam engine?

- A. "Furthermore, steam power plants require a huge amount of water, which means that they usually must be placed near bodies of water."
- B. "These plants also produce large quantities of ash, which may create disposal complications."

- C. "A steam power plant can be started and stopped quickly, and it can rapidly respond to differences in demand."
- D. "Despite being a somewhat antiquated method of generating electricity, steam power plants still have a few clear advantages."

Answer: C

Explanation:

This sentence suggests that steam power plants may consistently be run at the optimal level, thus eliminating waste.

Question: 10

Which of the following would be the best title for this passage?

- A. "Heat Transfer"
- B. "The Dangers of Radon"
- C. "Healthy Radiation"
- D. "The Dangers of Radiation"

Answer: D

Explanation:

This passage describes the various dangers associated with radiation.

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