



## Discuss Your Answers

**1** Look at the data table for the nonliving renewable resources. Which is the only choice filled or met by these resources? (Hint: what do you use the Sun and wind for?)

VSC G5.6.A.1.b

**2** The key word here is not. What is not good or useful about wind, water, and solar power? You can immediately eliminate choices B and C, because these alternate sources *are* nonpolluting and renewable—in fact, those are their main advantages. To pick between “convenience” (choice A) and “availability” (choice D), ask yourself two questions. First, is it *convenient* to require a windmill, or a river, or large solar panels and sunny days, to get power? Second, is one or another of these energy sources *available* to most people, so that they could have wind, or water, or solar power if they wanted? The way you answer these two questions will solve this problem for you.

VSC G5.6.A.1.b, c

**3** Solar power can be found everywhere. To choose between the remaining three choices, look at the map, its key, *and* the caption.

VSC G5.6.A.1.a

**4** The key word is production. The question asks about resources grown or mined in Maryland, not ones imported or brought in. So the issue is not what Maryland needs, but what it makes. Reread the descriptions of Maryland’s resources. If a resource is described as being “important” or the industry making it is “large,” then that is not the answer. Look for a resource where Maryland only produces limited numbers or amounts of that resource.

VSC G5.6.A.1.a

**5** Bad soil and little rain will make it difficult to grow crops or trees. Animals may have little food.

VSC G4.6.B.1.a

**6** When a question gives you maps or other graphics, be sure to look at them carefully. Where are most of the people living? On flat land near the Chesapeake Bay and near rivers. What does living near rivers and a bay mean in terms of transportation, in terms of agriculture, and in terms of access to other food supplies, such as seafood? Answering this question will largely answer question number 6. You may also need to draw on your knowledge of Maryland’s climate as well.

VSC G4.6.B.1.a; G5.6.A.1.a

**7** Paper is made from trees, which are a renewable resource. Similarly, many fabrics are made of renewable materials, like cotton or wool. Glass is made from sand, and plastics are made from petroleum, or oil. Which do you think it is most important to recycle? Which do we worry about running out of?

VSC G5.6.B.2.a

**8** *Erosion* is the movement of material, such as soil. Eroded material is often carried downhill, into waterways (either natural ones, such as streams and rivers, or manmade ones, such as sewers and drainage systems). The soil on farms is often treated with various chemicals, such as fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides. These chemicals are good when they are where they are supposed to be; they can be problems in other places.

VSC G5.6.B.2.a, b



**9** The question asks when recycling might not be a good idea. This means, when is it a *bad* idea—not just when is it less important. (Remember, even abundant or renewable resources like paper *can* be conserved.) Ask yourself: how do you get recycled materials to the recycling center? What is used to get them there?

VSC G5.6.B.2.a

**10** Planting more trees has many good effects on the environment. For example, they help reduce erosion, and they take in carbon dioxide, which is a greenhouse gas, reducing that kind of air pollution. If you are having trouble with this question, ask yourself: what happens to the animals that live in a forest when the mature (or grown up) trees that provided them with food or shelter are cut down? Does planting new trees immediately fix whatever damage was done?

VSC G5.6.B.2.b

**11** Building *any* power plant can cause habitat destruction. Of the remaining three choices, which type of pollution does burning fossil fuel mostly cause? That is the negative impact that a nuclear power plant avoids.

G5.6.B.2.b

**12** The question asks for the negative impact *most directly* reduced by recycling. What would be done with the materials that are recycled if they were not recycled? Where would they go?

VSC G5.6.B.2.b

**13** Sometimes, questions contain their own answers. The question tells you that air pollution, a serious problem, can travel long distances. It also tells you that the risk of radiation release is local. How do you think near vs. far groups will react to these hazards?

VSC G5.6.B.2.c

**14** Polluting makes the world dirtier; causes health problems; and harms plants and animals, hurting the environment and possibly people, too. But despite all these negative effects, people *still* pollute. That means that it must benefit *someone*. Who would that be? Here's a hint: it is often more expensive and more trouble to dispose of garbage or chemicals properly than it would be to simply dump them somewhere.

VSC G5.6.B.2.c