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Thirst for Oil Worldwide every day , we devour the energy equivalent of about 200 million barrels of Oil. Most of the energy on Earth comes from the Sun. In fact enough energy from the Sun hits the planet ' s surface each minute to cover our needs for an entire year , we just need to find an efficient way to use it. So far the energy in oil has been cheaper and easier to get at. But as supplies dwindle , this will change , and we will need to cure our addiction to oil. Burning wood satisfied most energy needs until the steam-driven industrial revolution , when energy-dense coal became the fuel of choice. Coal is still used , mostly in power stations , to cover one quarter of our energy needs , but its use has been declining since we started pumping up oil. Coal is the least efficient , unhealthiest and most environmentally damaging fossil fuel , but could make a comeback , as supplies are still plentiful. Its reserves are five times larger than oil ' s. Today petroleum , a mineral oil obtained from below the surface of the Earth and used to produce petrol , diesel oil and various other chemical substances , provides around 40% of the world ' s energy needs , mostly fuelling automobiles. The US consumes a quarter of all oil , and generates a similar proportion of greenhouse gas emissions. The majority of oil comes from the Middle East , which has half of known reserves. But other significant sources include Russia , North America , Norway , Venezuela and

the North Sea. Alaskas Arctic National Wildlife Refuge<sup>1</sup> could be a major new US source , to reduce reliance on foreign imports. Most experts predict we will exhaust easily accessible reserves within 50 years , though opinions and estimates vary. We could fast reach an energy crisis in the next few decades , when demand exceeds supply. As conventional reserves become more difficult to access. others such as oil shales and tar sands may be used instead. Petrol could also be obtained from coal. Since we started using fossil fuels , we have released 400 billion tonnes<sup>2</sup> of carbon , and burning the entire reserves could eventually raise world temperatures by 13 . Among other horrors , this would result in the destruction of all rainforests and melting of all Arctic ice. 词汇：来源：考试大

devour/di5vauE (r)/v. 吞没，耗尽 dwindle/5dwindl/v. 减少

dense/dens/adj. 密集的 diesel oil 柴油 pump/pQmp/v. 用泵抽吸

accessible/Ek5sesEbl/adj. 可使用的， 可得到的

petrolcum/5petrEl/n. 石油， 原油 rainforest n. (热带) 雨林

reliance/ri5laiEns/n. 依赖， 依靠 tar sand 沥青砂 oil shale 油页岩

destruction/dis5trQkFEn/n. 破坏， 毁灭 注释：百考试题论坛 1.

Alaska ' s Arctic National Wildlife Refuge：美国阿拉斯加北极国家野生动物保护区。2001年，美国众议院通过了一项基于布什提出的在那里进行石油开采的议案。该议案遭到环境保护主义组织的反对。因此，目前在该区禁止开采石油。 2.

tonnes：公吨(=1,000公斤)。不同于ton。 ton：在美国等于二千磅(=0.907公吨)，所以称作short ton：短吨。 练习：1.

“ ...we will need to cure our addiction to oil. ” Why does the author say so? A Most of the energy on Earth comes from the Sun. B

Oil supply is increasing all the time. C Demand for oil is increasing all the time. D Oil supply is decreasing. 2. Which of the following statements is NOT meant by the author, according to the second paragraph? A Wood wets the fuel of choice before coal. B The use of coal is declining. C Coal is the most environmentally unfriendly fuel next to oil. D Coal reserves are plentiful and will be likely to become the major fuel of choice. 3. Which country is the biggest consumer of petroleum? A The United States. B Russia. C Norway. D Venezuela. 4. What do experts say about the earth's fuel reserves? A The earth's fuel reserves will be accessible for the next 50 years. B There will soon be an energy crisis. C Conventional reserves will soon become inaccessible. D Fuel demand will decline. 5. What is NOT the result of consuming fossil fuels according to the last paragraph? A Rainforests will be destroyed. B Arctic ice will be melted. C The earth's temperature will be raised. D The sea level will go up. 相关推荐：把职称英语页面加入收藏 2009年职称英语考试试题及答案 点评专题 编辑推荐：为帮助广大学员有效备考，我们特推出了职称英语2010年网络辅导课程，相信会让大家有耳目一新的视听感受。现在报名职称英语辅导，赠送2009年精品课程及考试E币。点击查看详情》 100Test 下载频道开通，各类考试题目直接下载。详细请访问 [www.100test.com](http://www.100test.com)