A. Read the text about wind power and solar energy.

Wind is a primary choice for clean energy that can significantly reduce pollution and has minimal operational costs. It can also help reduce our reliance on oil and gas. Wind energy can provide electrical power for homes and **utility** grids and can be stored in batteries and used to pump water. A major benefit of wind energy is that it can enable households and businesses to generate and store their own electricity **onsite** and gives them backup power if the traditional utility grid fails.

Wind power is generated by taking the air that flows through turbines and converting this **kinetic** energy into mechanical power. There are two categories of wind power. The first is utility scale wind which uses wind **turbines** larger than 100 kilowatts to provide energy to entire regions via utility companies. Land-based utility **scale** wind is one of the cheapest energy sources available today and promises to become even more affordable as the technology develops. The second is distributed wind which makes use of turbines smaller than 100 kilowatts to provide power to homes and small businesses directly.

Solar power is a leading source of clean, renewable, and increasingly affordable energy that can help us break our dependence on fossil fuels as a reliable source of energy. Homeowners can easily **install** solar panels on their roofs and enjoy energy bill savings. In some countries, users can also qualify for tax breaks or energy **rebates** for any excess energy they produce that is delivered to the utility grid. Rooftop solar panels also provide a useful source of backup energy.

Solar power's energy is captured from the sun's rays and then converted into **thermal** or electrical energy. There are three types of solar energy. The first is photovoltaics which generates energy from sunlight through an electronic process used to power small electronic devices, road signs, homes and small businesses. The cost of residential **photovoltaic** solar power has dropped from $0.50 per **kilowatt** hour in 2010 to $0.128 per kilowatt hour in 2020. The second type is solar heating and cooling which uses the sun's heat to provide homes with hot water and to provide space heating and cooling. The final form is concentrated solar power that uses the sun's heat to run traditional turbines that generate electricity for utility grids.

B. Write the words in bold from the text next to their definitions.

1. Amounts of money that are paid back to you .....
2. Describing something that is concerned with movement .....
3. A unit of measuring power or energy that is equal to 1,000 .....
4. The size or extent of a thing, especially when it is very big .....
5. Describing the process of creating electrical energy from light .....
6. Describing something that relates to or is caused by heat .....
7. Located in the place people live or work and not elsewhere .....
8. A service, such as an electricity or gas supply, that is used by the public .....
9. To put a machine or a piece of equipment into position, and make it ready to use .....
10. Machines with a wheel that is driven by the movement of liquid or gas .....

C. Complete the advice about compare and contrast essays with the words below.

a. brainstorming b. point-by-point c. renewable
d. vice versa e. opposites f. block method

Begin by choosing two subjects to compare. You could pick two (1) ..... from the same category such as (2) ..... energy and fossil fuels, two related art forms like hip-hop and rock music, etc. Once your subjects have been chosen, start (3) ..... ideas. List all the similarities and differences between your subjects. Review the list and make connections between the similarities and differences and decide on a structure for your compare-and-contrast essay. There are three possible structures. (4) ..... in which you discuss one subject in full and then move on to the next subject. The (5) ..... method in which you discuss one subject according to a certain aspect and then the other subject according to the same aspect immediately afterward. This is then repeated with a new aspect. The final method is similarities and differences in which you discuss all the similarities between your subjects first and then all the differences after, or (6) .....

D. With a partner, complete the essay writing revision checklist with your own ideas.

1. The thesis statement clearly states the purpose of the essay. .....
2. ....
3. Body paragraphs contain no irrelevant ideas or sentences. .....
4. Vocabulary usage is generally varied and accurate. .....
5. ....
6. Spelling, punctuation and grammar are generally accurate. .....
7. ....
8. The conclusion paraphrases the thesis statement and summarises the main points. .....

E. In groups, use the text from Exercise A and your own ideas to list the similarities and differences between wind power and solar energy.

Similarities	Differences

F. Use the list from Exercise D to create an essay outline for a compare and contrast essay using one of the structures described in Exercise C.

Thesis statement: .....

BP 1 Topic sentence: .....

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BP 2 Topic sentence: .....

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BP 3 Topic sentence: .....

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BP 4 Topic sentence: .....

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G. Use your outline to write a cause and effect essay on wind power and solar energy.

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Wind and Solar