2021 USGC Written Exam Key

Section 1 – MS
1. a region of the Northeastern and Midwestern United States that has been experiencing industrial decline starting around 1980; states include NY, PA, OH, WV, KY, IN, IL, MI
2. a region of the United States generally considered to stretch across the Southeast and Southwest; states include GA, FL, TX, NM, AZ, NV, CA
3. Sun Belt
4. Rust Belt
5. Sun Belt
6. Sun Belt
7. Rust Belt
8. better climate, availability of jobs, cheap land, advent of air conditioning, recreational opportunities [accept reasonable equivalents]

Section 2 – MS
1. an underground layer of water-bearing permeable rock, rock fractures or unconsolidated materials [accept reasonable equivalents]
2. F
3. T
4. T
5. F
6. F
7. F
8. T
9. drip irrigation, capturing and storing water, irrigation scheduling, drought-tolerant crops, dry farming, rotational grazing, compost and mulch, cover crops, conservation tillage, organic farming [accept reasonable alternatives]

Section 3 – MS
1. sunlight, wind, rain, tides, waves, and geothermal heat; biomass is also renewable but not necessarily carbon neutral
2. F
3. T
4. F
5. T
6. F
7. F
8. T
9. plant or animal material used as fuel to produce electricity or heat; examples are wood, energy crops and waste from forests, yards, or farms; it is considered renewable because it can be replenished in a human timescale (except for forests)
10. 20%

Section 4 – MS
1. Sonoran
2. Atacama
3. Patagonian
4. Arabian

5. Taklamakan
6. Great Sandy
7. F
8. F
9. F
10. The desert owes its extreme aridity to a constant temperature inversion due to the cool north-flowing Humboldt ocean current and to the presence of the strong Pacific anticyclone

Section 1 – ES
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3. Sun Belt
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8. better climate, availability of jobs, cheap land, advent of air conditioning, recreational opportunities [accept reasonable equivalents]