

Knowledge of Sustainability

To begin, different people have different levels of knowledge about sustainability issues. We are interested to learn which topics are more well known, and which are less known. Please answer the following questions to the best of your knowledge.

1. There are many different kinds of animals and plants, and they live in many different types of environments. What is the word used to describe this idea?

- Multiplicity
- Biodiversity
- Socio-economics
- Evolution
- Don't know

2. Carbon monoxide is a major contributor to air pollution in the U.S. Which of the following is the biggest source of carbon monoxide?

- Factories and businesses
- People breathing
- Motor vehicles
- Trees
- Don't know

3. Which of the following is the most common source for generating electricity in the U.S.?

- Coal
- Nuclear
- Solar
- Hydroelectric (dams)
- Don't know

4. What is the most common cause of pollution of streams and rivers?

- Dumping of garbage by cities
- Surface water running off yards, city streets, paved lots, and farm fields
- Litter near streams and rivers
- Waste dumped by factories
- Don't know

5. Which of the following is a renewable resource?

- Oil
- Iron ore
- Trees
- Coal
- Don't know

6. Ozone forms a protective layer in the earth's upper atmosphere. What does ozone protect us from?

- Acid rain
- Climate change
- Sudden changes in temperature
- Harmful UV rays
- Don't know

7. Where does most of the garbage in the U.S. end up?

- Oceans
- Incinerators
- Recycling centers
- Landfills
- Don't know

8. What is the name of the primary federal agency that oversees environmental regulation?

- Environmental Protection Agency (the EPA)
- Department of Health, Environment, and Safety (the DHES)
- National Environmental Agency (the NEA)
- Federal Pollution Control Agency (the FPCA)
- Don't know

9. Which of the following household wastes is considered a hazardous waste?

- Plastic packaging
- Glass
- Batteries
- Spoiled food
- Don't know

10. What is the most common reason that an animal species becomes extinct?

- Pesticides
- Habitat loss
- Hunting
- Climate change
- Don't know

11. What is the primary benefit of wetlands?

- Promote flooding
- Clean the water before it enters lakes, streams, rivers, or oceans
- Keep the number of undesirable plants and animals low
- Provide good sites for landfills
- Don't know

12. Which of the following is an example of sustainable forest management?

- Setting aside forests to be off limits to the public
- Never harvesting more than what the forest produces in new growth
- Producing lumber for nearby communities to build affordable housing
- Putting the local communities in charge of forest resources
- Don't know

13. In the U.S., what do we currently do with the nuclear waste generated by nuclear power plants?

- Use it as nuclear fuel
- Sell it to other countries
- Dump it in landfills
- Store and monitor the waste
- Don't know

14. Since the 1960s, water quality in the U.S. has improved primarily because of . . .

- Federal regulation of polluters
- Voluntary action
- Public education
- It hasn't improved
- Don't know

15. Which of the following is the most commonly used definition of sustainable development?

- Creating a government welfare system that ensures universal access to education, health-care, and social services
- Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs
- Setting aside resources for preservation, never to be used
- Building a neighborhood that is both socio-demographically and economically diverse
- Don't know

16. If everybody on the planet consumed natural resources at the rate of the average American, approximately how many Earths would be needed to support humankind?

- Less than 1
- 1
- 5
- 11
- Don't know

17. Approximately how much of the oil used in the U.S. in 2010 was imported from other countries?

- 20%
- 50%
- 80%
- 90%
- Don't know

18. Which of the following countries has now passed the U.S. as the biggest emitter of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide?

- China
- Sweden
- Brazil
- Japan
- Don't know

19. Which of the following is the primary reason that gasoline prices have risen over the last several decades in the U.S.?

- Growing percentage of gas stations owned by large corporations
- Increasing oil discoveries overseas
- Higher rates of state and federal gasoline tax
- Increasing global demand for oil
- Don't know

20. Many economists argue that electricity prices in the U.S. are too low because...

- They do not reflect the costs of pollution from generating the electricity
- Too many suppliers go out of business
- Electric companies have a monopoly in their service area
- Consumers spend only a small part of their income on energy
- Don't know

21. Which of the following is a leading cause of depletion of fish stocks in the Atlantic Ocean?

- Fishermen seeking to maximize their catch
- Reduced fish fertility due to genetic hybridization
- Ocean pollution
- Global climate change
- Don't know

22. Which of the following is the most commonly used definition of economic sustainability?

- Maximizing the share price of a company's stock
- Long term profitability
- When costs equal revenue
- Continually expanding market share
- Don't know

23. The wealthiest 20% of people in the U.S. own approximately what percent of the nation's privately held wealth?

- 20%
- 35%
- 50%
- 85%
- Don't know

24. Over the past 3 decades, what has happened to the difference between the wealth of the richest and poorest Americans?

- The difference has increased
- The difference has stayed about the same
- The difference has decreased
- Don't know

25. Approximately what percentage of children in the U.S. live in poverty (a household annual income below \$23,000 for a family of 4)?

- 1%
- 5%
- 20%
- 50%
- Don't know

26. Approximately how many of the world's 7 billion people go hungry or are malnourished?

- 10 million
- 100 million
- 1 billion
- 5 billion
- Don't know

27. Higher levels of education generally lead to...

- Lower levels of voter turnout
- Greater annual earnings
- Larger family size
- Higher self esteem
- Don't know

28. Which of the following populations has the highest growth rate?

- North America
- Europe
- China
- Africa
- Don't know

29. It took 125 years, from 1800 to 1925, for the global population to increase from 1 to 2 billion people. Approximately how many years did it take for the population to increase from 6 to 7 billion?

- 5
- 15
- 40
- 60
- Don't know

30. Which one of the following dimensions is NOT included in the most widely used concept of sustainability?

- Society
- Democracy
- Environment
- Economy
- Don't know

Demographic information

- Freshman
- Sophomore
- Junior
- Senior

Academic major: _____

Academic minor: _____