

Sustainability Literacy Assessment

The following section is intended to assess baseline knowledge of sustainability principles.

Please select the first answer that seems right to you without conducting research.

1. Which of the following is the United Nations' definition of sustainable development? [UNH Q02]

- Ensuring that people continue to buy more goods and use more resources, indefinitely
- Setting aside resources for preservation, never to be used
- Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs
- Only using recycled materials for production

2. Sustainability includes:

- only environmental factors
- only environmental and economic factors
- social, environmental, and economic factors
- technical, environmental, economic factors
- only social and economic factors
- only social and environmental factors

3. Please indicate if the following are renewable energy resources over the course of a human lifetime: Yes, No, Not Sure [UNH Q05]

- Oil
- Geothermal
- Wood
- Coal
- Wind
- Solar

- Nuclear
- Hydroelectric

4. Which of the following ways of generating electricity produces the most externalities (i.e., impacts that are not paid for directly by the producers)?

- Coal
- Wind
- Solar
- Hydropower
- Natural Gas

5. Historically, which of the following has been the leading cause of the depletion of fish stocks? [UNH Q07]

- Global overfishing
- Reduced fish fertility due to genetic hybridization
- Ocean pollution
- Global climate change

6. What is the primary function of wetlands? [UNH Q08]

- Promote wildlife
- Provide sites for landfills
- Keep the number of invasive plants low
- Clean the water before it enters lakes, streams, rivers, or oceans and to mitigate Flooding

7. Which of the following is the definition of economic viability within a sustainability framework? [UNH Q09]

- Maximizing the share price of a company's stock
- Long-term profitability, that considers employees' wellbeing and efficient use of

resources

- When costs equal revenue
- Continually expanding market share

8. What factors influence humans' ecological impact on the Earth? [Modification of OSU/Loyola Marymount]

- Size of the population, amount of materials used per person and use of technology
- Size of the population and amount of materials used per person, but not use of technology
- Amount of materials used per person and use of technology, but not size of population
- Don't know

9. Which of the following requires, on average, the most water to produce?

- One pound of beef
- One pound of chicken
- One pound of lettuce
- One pound of bread

[Data from <http://waterfootprint.org/en/resources/interactive-tools/product-gallery/>]

10. How does the greenhouse effect work?

- Greenhouse gases absorb energy, slowing or preventing the loss of heat to space.
- Greenhouse gases directly warm oceans and cause dramatic weather.
- Oceans absorb greenhouse gases, which cause the Earth's temperature to rise.
- Greenhouse gases reflect the sun's energy, causing it to warm the Earth.

[DOE climate change quiz <https://www.energy.gov/articles/quiz-test-your-climate-change-ig>]