

Sustainability Knowledge 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-iq>]