**Sustainability Literacy Assessment Questions**

Missouri State University is dedicated to global sustainability development goals; as such this literacy exam is a means for assessing general sustainability knowledge.

If you are unsure of the answer please take an educated guess.

1. Which of the following is the **MOST** widely accepted definition of ‘sustainable development’?
   1. Creating welfare systems that ensure universal access to education, healthcare, and social services
   2. Setting aside resources for preservation, never to be used
   3. Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs
   4. Building communities that are environmentally sound, and socio-demographically and economically diverse

1. Which of the following statement about water is **TRUE**?
   1. Globally, water for personal use such as washing dishes, doing laundry, and bathing is the major user of water resources.
   2. Globally, freshwater reserves are used faster than they are replenished.
   3. Under future scenarios of climate change, floods and severe weather will increase the availability of clean drinking water.
   4. Water is a free and abundant resource, therefore it is not a significant concern for most countries.
2. Corporate social responsibility implies a commitment to “triple bottom line”, including:
   1. Three forms of financial reporting
   2. Environmental, social, and financial performance
   3. Offering health, dental, and vision care to employees
   4. Incorporating community, labor, and government representatives on the board of directors
3. What is the **MOST** common cause of pollution of streams and rivers?
   1. Dumping of garbage by cities
   2. Surface water running off yards, city streets, paved lots, and farm fields
   3. Litter near streams and rivers
   4. Waste dumped by factories
4. Many economists argue that electricity prices in the U.S. are too low because of what reason?
   1. Current prices do not reflect the total costs of pollution from generating electricity
   2. Too many suppliers go out of business
   3. Electric companies have a monopoly in their service area
   4. Consumers spend only a small part of their income on energy
5. What is the **MOST** significant driver in the loss of species and ecosystems around the world?
   1. Overhunting/overharvesting
   2. Loss of habitats through conversion of natural spaces into human developments
   3. Acid rain
   4. Interspecies competition
6. Which of the following is the **BEST** example of social and environmental justice?
   1. Urban citizens win a bill to have toxic wastes taken to rural communities
   2. The government dams a river, flooding Native American tribal lands to create hydro-power for large cities
   3. All stakeholders from an indigenous community are involved in setting a quota for the amount of wood they can take from a protected forest next to their village
   4. Multi-national corporations build factories in developing countries where environmental laws are less strict.
7. Which of the following statements about greenhouse gases is **FALSE**?
   1. Humans would be better off without greenhouse gases
   2. There are many different greenhouse gases, not just carbon dioxide
   3. Greenhouse gases allow solar radiation to reach Earth, but keep it from escaping back into space
   4. Higher Carbon footprints increase the likelihood of climate change
8. What is the **PRIMARY** benefit of wetlands?
   1. Promote flooding
   2. Filter the water before it enters lakes, streams, rivers, or oceans
   3. Keep the number of undesirable plants and animals low
   4. Provide good sites for landfills
9. What are the potential effects of global climate change?
   1. Loss of habitats
   2. Less severe weather
   3. Increase of ozone layer
   4. Decrease in sea level
10. Workers around the world face a variety of social injustices, including low wages, poor working conditions, and lack of access to education. To help improve conditions for these workers you can:
    1. Support corporations that do not allow workers to join labor unions
    2. Buy the newest products to keep factories around the world open
    3. Purchase products from companies that conduct business in a socially responsible manner
    4. Support large corporations because they generally have more money to pay their workers
11. Which of the following is **NOT** a Sustainable Development Goal?
12. Ensure access to water and sanitation to all
13. Maximize today’s benefits through increased resource consumption
14. Achieve gender equity and empower all women and girls
15. Reduce inequality within and among countries