Please indicate whether you believe the following statements to be true or false.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | True | False |
| In order to be sustainable, products should be made of all natural components. | m | m |
| In order to be sustainable, a country should consume water at the same rate at which it is produced by rain and snow or at a slower rate. | m | m |
| In order to be sustainable, a country’s population should grow at a steady rate. | m | m |
| In order to be sustainable, pollution should be emitted at a level at which natural systems can absorb it, recycle it, or render it harmless. | m | m |
| All renewable energy sources are “clean” energy sources. | m | m |
| The “Tragedy of the Commons” can be potentially overcome through privatization or imposing government authority. | m | m |
| Environmental justice is commonly defined as “the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, sex, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.” | m | m |
| As a result of environmental injustice, communities of color and low-income communities in many parts of the U.S. incur greater incidence of cancer. | m | m |
| Weather means the average climate conditions in a region. | m | m |
| Climate often changes from year to year. | m | m |
| In order for a society to be sustainable, it should be able to meet the needs of the present generation without jeopardizing the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. | m | m |
| In order to be sustainable, a business should extract natural resources at the same rate at which they can be replenished or at a slower rate. | m | m |
| Social, economic, and environmental systems are interconnected and interdependent. | m | m |

Q3A Please read each of the policy descriptions below and indicate whether you believe it would make a community more sustainable, less sustainable, or would make no difference one way or the other.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | More Sustainable | Less Sustainable | No Difference |
| A policy that would encourage people to insulate their homes to save energy | m | m | m |
| A policy that would encourage people to purchase more goods in order to build up the economy | m | m | m |
| A policy that would encourage people to take public transportation, bicycle, or walk to work, rather than drive in their own cars | m | m | m |
| A policy that would encourage people to install low flow shower heads | m | m | m |
| A policy that would encourage people to use incandescent light bulbs in their homes, rather than compact fluorescent (CFL) or LED light bulbs | m | m | m |

Q2 To the best of your knowledge, which of the following gases in the atmosphere trap heat from the Earth’s surface? (Check any that apply)

* Carbon Dioxide
* Nitrogen
* Hydrogen
* Water vapor
* Methane

Q3B To the best of your knowledge, which of the following energy sources are renewable? (Check any that apply)

* Oil
* Natural gas [Electricity generated from natural gas]
* Wind [Electricity generated from wind]
* Solar power [Electricity generated from solar power/cells]
* Hydroelectric power [Electricity generated from hydroelectric dams]

Q4 To the best of your knowledge, which of the following natural resources are renewable? (Check any that apply)

* Iron
* Wood
* Plastic

Text For the following questions, please select what you feel is the best answer. If you are unsure, please make your best guess.

Q5 Which of the following terms refers to the idea that humans value goods or resources that will be received in the future at a lesser value than goods or resources that are available today?

* Discounting
* Pessimism
* Rate of return
* Interest

Q6 One barrier to policy progress on the issue of climate change is that:

* The impacts will likely be negligible
* This issue occurs only in certain parts of the world
* There is a lack of scientific consensus on the issue
* Most of the negative effects will occur in the distant future

Q7 A cap-and-trade system limits carbon emissions by:

* Placing a limit on how much each factory can pollute.
* Placing a limit on the total amount of emissions.
* Placing a set price on the emission of each unit of carbon.
* Placing a limit on the number of new factories that can be built.

Q8 A group of fishing boat owners share equal access to a common fishing area and are dependent upon it for their livelihoods. For each individual, it is economically rational to:

* Limit the number of fish he or she catches to ensure there will be fish to catch in the future.
* Catch all the fish he or she can to maximize the profit.
* Limit the number of fish he or she catches to ensure there everyone gets an equal share.
* Catch all the fish he or she can to eliminate the competition.

Q9 A group of fishing boat owners share equal access to a common fishing area and are dependent upon it for their livelihoods.  For the group, it is economically rational to:

* Limit the number of fish they catch to ensure there will be fish to catch in the future.
* Catch all the fish they can to maximize their profit.
* Limit the number of fish they catch to ensure there everyone gets an equal share.
* Catch all the fish they can to eliminate the competition.

Q10 Which uses the most energy in an average American home each year?

* Lights
* Heating water
* Heating and cooling rooms
* Refrigeration

Q11 What do most scientists believe is the maximum ppm for atmospheric CO2 if we wish to stabilize the Earth’s temperature in the long term?

* 275 ppm
* 350 ppm
* 400 ppm
* 450 ppm

Q12 Current global climate change is:

* Caused mostly by human activities.
* Caused equally by both human activities and natural changes.
* Caused mostly by natural changes in the environment.
* None of the above because global climate change isn’t happening.

Q13 An ecosystem’s “carrying capacity” refers to:

* The amount of land currently in agricultural production.
* The number of living things the system can sustain indefinitely.
* The minimum number of species an ecosystem needs to survive.
* The amount of nutrients water a certain temperature can hold.

Q14 Climate change disproportionately impacts people earning a low income because:

* Infrastructure in developing countries can be less resilient to storms.
* People earning a low income have fewer resources to rebuild or relocate after flooding.
* People earning a low income are more likely to live in areas threatened by flooding, water scarcity and/or vector-borne disease.
* All of the above

Q15 Climate change has led to more powerful hurricanes because:

* Climate change has not lead to more powerful hurricanes.
* Warmer air mixing with cooler water produces more extreme hurricanes.
* Melting glaciers result in more rain water in hurricanes.
* Ocean water temperatures are increasing which increases the strength of hurricanes.

Q16 The “greenhouse effect” refers to:

* The response of the Earth’s climate to gases in the atmosphere that trap heat.
* The Earth’s protective ozone layer.
* Pollution that causes acid rain.
* How plants grow.

Q17 Which one of the following causes ocean acidification?

* Absorption of carbon dioxide by the ocean
* Chemical spills in the ocean
* Warmer ocean temperatures
* Natural seepages of oil and other chemicals

Q18 Which one of the following is not an example of an externality?

* A fine a company has to pay for pollution
* Harm to a worker's health
* The cost of waste disposal of a commercial by-product
* Harm to community members' health due to air pollution

Q19 "Sustainability" with regard to natural resources means:

* Using natural resources as slowly as possible.
* Only using as much as is replaced by natural processes.
* Not introducing new technology too quickly.
* Discovering new resources to allow maximum economic growth.