

## Sustainability Literacy Section

Please answer the following questions to the best of your ability:

Single correct answer

1. **Corporate social responsibility implies a commitment to triple bottom line reporting, which includes:**
  - Three forms of financial reporting
  - Environmental, social, and financial performance
  - Offering health, dental, and vision care to employees
  - Incorporating community, labor, and government representatives on the board of directors
2. **What is meant by the term “carbon footprint”?**
  - The age of an item found at an archeological site
  - The carbon left on the ground each time you take a step
  - The size of the carbon chain in a given quantity of gasoline
  - The greenhouse gasses released by burning fossil fuels for electricity and transportation
3. **What are the primary energy sources used to generate Electricity in United States?**
  - Solar and wind
  - Coal and nuclear
  - Nuclear and hydroelectric
  - Coal and natural gas
4. **A technique to assess environmental impacts associated with all stages of a product’s life from cradle to grave (resource extraction through usage and disposal or reuse) is called:**
  - An energy audit
  - A cost-benefit analysis
  - A life cycle assessment
  - A thermal system analysis
5. **Which of the following is a renewable resource?**
  - Oil
  - Coal
  - Trees
  - Iron ore
  - All of the above
6. **Which of the following statements about greenhouse gasses is FALSE?**
  - Humans would be better off without greenhouse gases
  - There are many different greenhouse gasses, not just carbon dioxide
  - Increased greenhouse gasses trap solar radiation in the atmosphere
  - Greenhouse gasses allow solar radiation to reach Earth, but keep it from escaping back into space
  - All of the above are TRUE
7. **The three most populous countries in the world today, combining to represent over 40% of the Earth’s population are:**
  - China, India, and Brazil
  - China, India, and Indonesia
  - China, India, and the United States

- China, the United States, and Mexico
- 8. More than half the calories consumed by the world's human population come from three foods. These are:**
  - Fish, beans, and millet
  - Corn, rice, and wheat
  - Chicken, corn, and rice
  - Beef, potatoes, and wheat
  - Chicken, corn, and rice
- 9. The most effective way to reduce your personal carbon footprint is to:**
  - Fly less
  - Live closer to work or school
  - Reduce meat consumption or eat only animals that are grass-fed rather than grain-fed
  - All of the above
- 10. The term for products nature provides free of charge such as clean water, clean air, productive soils, habitat for diverse species, and pollination of plants is:**
  - Natural capital
  - Ecosystem services
  - Environmental economics
  - Environmental conservation
- 11. The carbon cycle, the nitrogen cycle, and the water cycle (mark all true statements):**
  - Can incorporate long storage times
  - Are likely to be affected by climate change
  - Continue indefinitely when left undisturbed
  - Require man-made inputs to function effectively

**Multiple answers**

- 12. Why is it important to recycle? (Choose all that apply)**
  - a) Recycling decreases the amount of habitat lost due to resource extraction.
  - b) Recycling typically takes less energy to process recycled materials than to use new materials.
  - c) Recycling cuts down on the amount of trash that goes into landfills.
  - d) None of these (recycling is not an efficient way of dealing with our wastes.)
- 13. What are the potential effects of global climate change? (Choose all that apply)**
  - a) Loss of habitats
  - b) Less severe weather
  - c) Expansion of deserts
  - d) Decrease in sea level
- 14. The most significant driver in the loss of species and ecosystems around the world is**
  - a) overhunting/overharvesting
  - b) Conversion of natural space into human developments (farmland, cities, etc.)
  - c) Acid rain
  - d) Breeding of animals in zoos

**15. Which of the following is an example of environmental justice?**

- a) Urban citizens win a bill to have toxic wastes taken to rural communities.
- b) Government dams a river, flooding Native American tribal lands, to create hydro-power for large cities.
- c) Indigenous communities are involved in setting a quota for the amount of wood that they can take from a protected forest next to their village.
- d) Corporations build factories in developing countries where environmental laws are less strict.

**16. Of the following, which contributes the most to sustainability?**

- a) Recycling products
- b) Reusing products
- c) Buying the newest products to increase economic development
- d) Reducing consumption of products

**17. What factors influence human population's impact on Earth's resources?**

**(Choose all that apply.)**

- a) Size of the population
- b) Amount of materials used per person
- c) Use of technology that lessens our impact

**18. Using non-renewable resources, like fossil fuels, can create economic growth but future generations will be disadvantaged if the current generation overuses these resources. Which of the following principles can we follow if we do not want to disadvantage the next generation?**

**(Choose all that apply)**

- a) Renewable resources such as fish, soil, and groundwater must be used no faster than the rate at which they regenerate.
- b) Nonrenewable resources such as minerals and fossil fuels must be used no faster than renewable substitutes for them can be put into place.
- c) Pollution and wastes must be emitted no faster than natural systems can absorb them, recycle them, or render them harmless.
- d) None (Humans will never run out of non-renewable resources.)

**19. The best way to support a local economy, such as the local economy of College Park, is to buy goods (groceries, clothing, toiletries, etc.) at**

- a) Large chain stores such as Target or Walmart
- b) Farmer's markets and stores that sell locally-produced goods
- c) locally-owned stores and restaurants

**20. Which of the following statements about water is/are true?**

**(Choose all that apply)**

- a) The number of people who have access to clean drinking water will increase over the next two decades
- b) Globally, freshwater reserves (aquifers) are used faster than they are replenished.

- c) Many people around the world do not have access to clean drinking water, so their only option is to drink contaminated water.
- d) Global warming does not threaten to decrease freshwater reserves.

**21. Imagine that we had to pay for all the costs associated with the manufacturing of the goods we use every day. What would go into calculating the true costs of a product?**

**(Choose all that apply)**

- a) The cost of raw materials to make the product
- b) The cost of environmental damage caused by production
- c) The cost to transport that product from its manufacturing location to your location
- d) The cost of health care for employees who manufacture the product

**22. Put the following list in order of the activities with the largest environmental impact to those with the smallest environmental impact**

- A. Keeping a cell phone charger plugged into an electrical outlet for 12 hours
- B. Producing one McDonalds quarter-pound hamburger
- C. Producing one McDonalds chicken sandwich
- D. Flying in a commercial airplane from Washington DC to China

- a) A, C, B, D
- b) D, A, B, C
- c) D, C, B, A
- d) D, B, C, A

**23. Globally, communities face a variety of social injustices, including low wages, poor working conditions, and lack of access to education. To help improve communities around the world you can:**

**(Choose all that apply)**

- a) Support US corporations that do not allow labor unions
- b) Buy fair trade certified products
- c) Make all purchases online
- d) Learn how companies you usually buy from conduct business

**24. Which of the following degree options are available from the Environment and Sustainability program at University of South Carolina?**

- a) Minor BA
- b) Major BS
- c) Masters MS