

Lehigh University  
Sustainability Literacy Assessment  
2021-2022

1. To the best of your knowledge, which of the following statements illustrates the relationship between the environment and economic development?
  - A. Irresponsible use of environmental resources will not hurt our economy in the long-run
  - B. All economic development is not good for the environment
  - C. The environment should only be protected for its economic value
  - D. The environment provides resources to support economic activity; the environment and economy can be complementary
  
2. Imagine that we had to pay for all the costs associated with the goods we use every day. To the best of your knowledge, what would go into calculating the true costs of a product?
  - A. The cost of raw materials to make the product, environmental damage caused by production, and healthcare for employees who manufacture the product
  - B. The cost of raw materials and transportation for the finished product
  - C. The cost of production and yearly salary increases for employees
  - D. The cost of raw materials, transportation for the finished product, and payments to developing countries that are negatively impacted by the manufacturing process
  
3. Many economists argue that electricity prices in the U.S. are too low because...
  - A. Too many suppliers go out of business
  - B. They do not reflect the costs of pollution from generating the electricity
  - C. Electric companies have a monopoly in their service area
  - D. They lead to greater consumption of electricity
  
4. What is the leading driver of deforestation in the world?
  - A. Urbanization
  - B. Desertification
  - C. Agriculture
  - D. Forest fires
  
5. Which of the following is a leading cause of the depletion of fish stocks in the Atlantic Ocean?
  - A. Fishermen seeking to maximize their catch
  - B. Reduced fish fertility due to genetic hybridization
  - C. Ocean pollution
  - D. Global climate change
  
6. Which of the following is the primary reason that gasoline prices have risen over the last several decades in the U.S.?
  - A. Growing percentage of gas stations owned by large corporations
  - B. Increasing global demand for oil
  - C. Increased regulations on drilling for oil and gas
  - D. Higher rates of state and federal gasoline tax
  
7. What is the definition of climate change?
  - A. Change in short term weather and climate conditions
  - B. Increased water and air pollution levels
  - C. Change in long term weather and climate conditions
  - D. Global increase in average temperatures
  
8. The global climate change our planet is currently experiencing is:
  - A. Caused mostly by human activities

- B. Caused equally by human activities and natural changes
  - C. Caused mostly by natural changes
  - D. Caused by an increase in volcanic activity
9. What is meant by the term "carbon footprint?"
- A. The area of forest removed for construction of a building or road
  - B. The greenhouse gas emissions caused by an individual's or entity's actions
  - C. Amount of carbon needed to support the energy use of a building
  - D. The square footage occupied by a building
10. Which of the following is NOT an effect of climate change?
- A. Rising sea levels
  - B. Increasing global temperatures
  - C. Increased pollution
  - D. More frequent weather catastrophes
11. The social equity dimension of sustainability refers to...
- A. The practices that allow the creation of jobs and delivering income to diverse communities
  - B. The practices that help an economy grow and thrive without impacting social aspects of the community
  - C. The stewardship of resources and managing and conserving the environment
  - D. How the burdens and benefits of different policy actions are distributed within a community
12. What is an accurate statement about food security in the U.S.?
- A. Food security is not an issue
  - B. African American households are more than twice as likely to be food insecure as white, non-Hispanic households
  - C. This is an issue that affects those that live in rural areas that have dry, hot climates
  - D. Elderly, homeless, and members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) population are twice as likely to be food insecure as other Americans
13. What is a "food desert?"
- A. Region where food is not grown due to climate, therefore all food must be shipped in
  - B. Food that has been deemed unacceptable for human consumption
  - C. Urban or rural areas without ready access to fresh, healthy, and affordable food
  - D. Area without restaurants that offer vegetarian or vegan options
14. Which mode of long-distance travel has the smallest greenhouse gas emissions per passenger compared to the other options?
- A. Regional train (e.g. Amtrak)
  - B. Car
  - C. Airplane
  - D. Bus
15. Some buildings on Lehigh's campus are LEED certified. What does this mean?
- A. The buildings and belongings within are fully insured for all natural disasters resulting from climate change
  - B. The buildings were built with fair-trade building supplies, free of lead and asbestos
  - C. The buildings were built by contractors certified in the use of environmentally friendly materials
  - D. The buildings maximize health, are very efficient, use fewer resources, and minimize negative environmental impacts