Sustainability Literacy Questions (2020-2021)

I: Knowledge Questions

Sustainability terms and definitions

*The following questions are about general sustainability terms and concepts. Please answer to the best of your ability. If you are unsure of an answer, choose the option you believe to be closest to the truth.*

1. In your own words, the definition of sustainability is:
2. An activity with a large "carbon footprint":
   * Has long carbon chains
   * Deposits lots of carbon into the ground
   * Uses up more carbon than usual
   * Releases a lot of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere
3. Which of the following statements about greenhouse gases is true?
   * More greenhouse gases in the atmosphere will be better for our planet
   * Oxygen is a greenhouse gas
   * Greenhouse gases trap heat in the atmosphere
   * Greenhouse gases are decreasing due to human activities
4. Fairtrade certification on a product means that:
   * The farmers who made the product are paid equitably with decent working conditions
   * The product is endorsed by Health Canada as “healthy”
   * The product was made locally
   * The product is exported out of Canada to countries we trade with
5. The new Barrett CTI building at the Humber North campus is Net-Zero Energy, which is a credential given to a home or building that:
   * Uses no energy during its construction
   * Uses very little energy to operate
   * Operates using non-renewable energy
   * Produces as much energy as it consumes over a period of time
6. Which of the following is the most correct way of describing economic sustainability?
   * Maximizing the share price of a company’s stock
   * Always having costs equal revenue
   * Ensuring resources support long-term growth
   * Continually expanding market share

Sustainability Issues: Causes and Effects

*The following questions are about the causes and effects of current sustainability issues. Please answer to the best of your ability. If you are unsure of an answer, choose the option you believe to be closest to the truth.*

1. The majority of Canada's greenhouse gas emissions are the result of which sector?
   * Transportation (CO2 from cars and trucks)
   * Waste (garbage breaking down in landfills)
   * Oil and gas (mining and combusting fossil fuels to make energy)
   * Agriculture (growing and producing food)
2. What is Environmental Racism?

* Racism experienced by individuals working within the environmental sector
* Disproportionate impact of environmental hazards on the racialized communities
* Humankind treating different kinds of animals differently depending on prior exposure
* None of the above

1. Locally grown food is more sustainable because:
   * Local food always uses fewer pesticides than imported food
   * Local food is transported shorter distances, creates less waste, and helps keep money in the local economy
   * Local food is more expensive and therefore forces you to eat less
   * Local food is always organic and regenerative
2. “Fast fashion” is defined as inexpensive clothing that is produced quickly in response to trends. Fast fashion is unsustainable because it can lead to:
   * Exploitation of workers in developing countries
   * Excessive fresh water use
   * Destructive farming practices
   * All of the above
3. What is a likely effect of requiring citizens and corporations to pay for the true cost of pollution they create (e.g. carbon tax)?
   * Encourages environmentally responsible behaviour but generates less money for the government to spend on fighting climate change
   * Encourages environmentally responsible behaviour and generates more money for the government to spend on fighting climate change
   * Discourages environmentally responsible behaviour but generates more money for the government to spend on fighting climate change
   * Discourages environmentally responsible behaviour and generates less money for the government to spend on fighting climate change

*Sustainable Practices & Policies*

*The following questions are about sustainability practices and policies. Please answer to the best of your ability. If you are unsure of an answer, choose the option you believe to be closest to the truth.*

1. Which of the following does **NOT** promote social sustainability?
   * Respecting the basic rights of all people
   * Maximizing profits through solutions like outsourcing labour to developing countries
   * Establishing business partnerships that make a greater positive impact in the community
   * Improving the lives of people by creating more decent jobs, goods and services
2. Which of the following sustainability development goals (SDG) help lift people out of poverty?
   * SDG #1 No Poverty
   * SDG #9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
   * SDG #14 Life Below Water
   * All of the above
3. Which of the following is **TRUE** about bottled water and Toronto municipal tap water?
   * Tap water is untreated and has many impurities, which makes bottled water healthier
   * Tap water is more frequently regulated and monitored than bottled water
   * Aquafina, Dasani and Nestle import water only from international springs while tap water is a local resource
   * Tap water has no chemicals while bottled water contains chemicals like chlorine and fluorine
4. Which of the following is an example of sustainable forest management?
   * Restricting public access to forests
   * Not harvesting more than what the forest produces in new growth
   * Producing lumber for nearby communities to build affordable housing
   * Putting local communities in charge of forest resources
5. Which of the following about the Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs) is

**FALSE**?

* + The global goals for sustainable development were established by the United Nations.
  + The SDGs address global challenges we face, including poverty, gender equality, education, peace and justice.
  + The goals apply to only underdeveloped countries.
  + The goals integrate all three aspects of sustainable development: social, economic, and environmental.