

# PittSustainability

## 2020 Sustainability Literacy Assessment Final Questions

1. What are the three dimensions of sustainability?
  - a. **Society, Environment, Economy**
  - b. Conservation, Capitalism, Democracy
  - c. Efficiency, Employment, Education
  - d. Environment, Education, Activism
  - e. I don't know
  
2. Choose the best definition for "sustainable development"
  - a. Creating a government welfare system that ensure universal access to education, health care, and social services
  - b. Reserving land and resources for preservation so they can never be used
  - c. Building a neighborhood that tis both socio-demographically and economically diverse
  - d. **Meeting the needs of the present while also enabling future generations to thrive in a world that is environmentally responsible, socially equitable and economically robust**
  - e. I don't know
  
3. Choose the best description for the economic aspect of sustainability
  - a. Practices that allow a company's cost to equal their revenue
  - b. **Practices that support long-term economic growth without negatively impacting social, environmental, or cultural aspects of the community**
  - c. Social well-being marked by prosperity, justice, and high education rates
  - d. Ability for an economy to sustain low inflation levels while being globally competitive
  - e. I don't know
  
4. Choose the best description for the social aspect of sustainability
  - a. Practices that allow the creation of jobs and delivering income to communities
  - b. Practices that help an economy grow and thrive without impacting social aspects of the community
  - c. **Practices that provide equitable, diverse, and connected communities and a good quality of life**
  - d. Stewardship of resources and managing and conserving the environment
  - e. I don't know
  
5. The Triple Bottom Line (TBL) is the theory that recommends companies focus on what?
  - a. Land, Labor, Capital
  - b. Cost, Loss, Profit
  - c. **People, Planet, Profit**
  - d. Profit, Profit, Profit
  - e. I don't know

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6. Which of the following items are NOT related to sustainability?
  - a. Transportation and Mobility
  - b. Materials and Waste
  - c. Equity and Access
  - d. None of the Above**
  - e. I don't know
  
7. What is the name of the primary federal agency that oversees environmental regulation?
  - a. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**
  - b. Department of Health, Environment, and Safety (DHES)
  - c. Department of Agriculture (DoA)
  - d. Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)
  - e. I don't know
  
8. Some buildings on Pitt's campus are LEED certified, what does this mean?
  - a. The buildings and belongings within are fully insured for all natural disasters
  - b. The buildings were built with fair-trade building supplies, free of lead and asbestos
  - c. The buildings were built by certified contractors
  - d. The buildings maximize operational efficiency and minimize environmental impact**
  - e. I don't know
  
9. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 has how many goals?
  - a. 5
  - b. 9
  - c. 12
  - d. 17**
  - e. I don't know
  
10. Of the following, which could be considered living in the most environmentally sustainable way?
  - a. Recycling all recyclable packaging
  - b. Reducing consumption of all products**
  - c. Buying products labeled "eco" or "green"
  - d. Buying the newest products available
  - e. I don't know

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11. The global climate change our planet is currently experiencing is:
- Caused mostly by human activities**
  - Caused equally by human activities and natural changes
  - Caused mostly by natural changes
  - None of the above because global climate change is not happening
  - I don't know
12. What are the potential effects of global climate change?
- Loss of habitats**
  - Less severe weather
  - Loss of ozone layer
  - Decrease in sea level
  - I don't know
13. Which 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
  - I don't know
14. Which of the following are ecosystem services provided by a wetland?
- Water purification
  - Flood protection
  - Farming
  - Wildlife habitats
  - a and d
  - a, b, and d**
15. Ozone forms a protective layer in the earth's upper atmosphere. What does ozone protect us from?
- Acid rain
  - Climate change
  - Sudden changes in temperature
  - Harmful ultraviolet (UV) rays**
  - I don't know

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16. Many economists argue that electricity prices in the US are too low because:
- a. They do not reflect the energy lost over long power lines between electricity generators and end users
  - b. They do not reflect the costs of pollution from generating the electricity**
  - c. The price of generating electricity is increasing due to aging infrastructure and the depletion of resources
  - d. As our population increases so does the demand for electricity
  - e. I don't know
17. Climate change disproportionately impacts people earning a low income because:
- a. Infrastructure in developing countries can be less resilient to storms
  - b. People earning a low income have fewer resources to rebuild or relocate after flooding
  - c. People earning a low income are more likely to live in areas threatened by flooding, water scarcity, and/or vector-borne disease
  - d. All of the above**
  - e. I don't know
18. As of 2018, the world's richest 1% own what % of the world's wealth?
- a. 10%
  - b. 27%
  - c. 45%**
  - d. 72%
  - e. I don't know
19. In the U.S., poverty is defined as having an annual household wage of \$26,200 or less for a family of four. In Allegheny County, what percentage of residents live below the poverty line?
- a. 2.70%
  - b. 5%
  - c. 12.5%**
  - d. 20%
  - e. I don't know

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20. Over the past three decades, what has happened to the difference between the wealth of the richest and poorest Americans?
- a. **The wealth difference has increased**
  - b. The wealth difference has stayed about the same
  - c. The wealth difference has decreased
  - d. I don't know