

Different people have different levels of knowledge about sustainability issues. We are interested to learn which topics are well known and which are less known. Please answer the following questions to the best of your knowledge. Please choose **“Don’t know”** if you are uncertain about the answer to a question, rather than guessing.

1. What is the most common cause of pollution of streams and rivers?  
[Programming note: response items will be randomized, except for “Don’t know”]
  - a. Dumping of garbage by cities
  - b. Surface water running off yards, city streets, paved lots, and farm fields
  - c. Litter near streams and rivers
  - d. Waste dumped by factories
  - e. Don’t know
  
2. Ozone forms a protective layer in the Earth’s upper atmosphere. What does ozone protect us from?  
[Programming note: response items will be randomized, except for “Don’t know”]
  - a. Acid Rain
  - b. Climate change
  - c. Sudden changes in temperature
  - d. Harmful UV rays
  - e. Don’t know
  
3. What is the name of the primary federal agency that oversees environmental regulation?  
[Programming note: response items will be randomized, except for “Don’t know”]
  - a. Environmental Protection Agency (the EPA)
  - b. Department of Health, Environment, and Safety (the DHES)
  - c. National Environmental Agency (the NEA)
  - d. Federal Pollution Control Agency (the FPCA)
  - e. Don’t know

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4. What is the primary benefit of wetlands?  
[Programming note: response items will be randomized, except for “Don’t know”]
  - a. Promote flooding
  - b. Clean the water before it enters lakes, streams, rivers or oceans
  - c. Keep the number of undesirable plants and animals low
  - d. Provide good sites for landfills
  - e. Don’t know

5. Which of the following is an example of sustainable forest management?  
[Programming note: response items will be randomized, except for “Don’t know”]
- a. Setting aside forests to be off-limits to the public
  - b. Never harvesting more than what the forest produces in new growth
  - c. Producing lumber for nearby communities to build affordable housing
  - d. Putting the local communities in charge of forest resources
  - e. Don’t know

6. In the U.S., what do we currently do with the nuclear waste generated by nuclear power plants?  
[Programming note: response items will be randomized, except for “Don’t know”]
- a. Use it as nuclear fuel
  - b. Sell it to other countries
  - c. Dump it in landfills
  - d. Store and monitor the waste
  - e. Don’t know

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7. Which of the following is the most commonly used definition of sustainable development?  
[Programming note: response items will be randomized, except for “Don’t know”]
- a. Creating a government welfare system that ensures universal access to education, healthcare and social services
  - b. Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs
  - c. Setting aside resources for preservation, never to be used
  - d. Building a neighborhood that is both socio-demographically and economically diverse
  - e. Don't know
8. The wealthiest 20% of people in the U.S. own approximately what percent of the nation’s privately held wealth?  
[Programming note: response items will NOT be randomized]
- a. 20%
  - b. 35%
  - c. 50%
  - d. 85%
  - e. Don’t know

9. Over the past three decades, what has happened to the difference between the wealth of the richest and poorest Americans?

[Programming note: response items will NOT be randomized]

- a. The difference has increased
- b. The difference has stayed about the same
- c. The difference has decreased
- d. Don't know

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10. Higher levels of education generally lead to:

[Programming note: response items will be randomized, except for "Don't know"]

- a. Lower levels of voter turnout
- b. Greater annual earnings
- c. Larger family size
- d. Higher self-esteem
- e. Don't know

11. Which of the following areas has the highest rate of population growth?

[Programming note: response items will be randomized, except for "Don't know"]

- a. North America
- b. Europe
- c. China
- d. Africa
- e. Don't know

12. Which of the following countries has now surpassed the U.S. as the biggest emitter of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide?

[Programming note: response items will be randomized, except for "Don't know"]

- a. China
- b. Sweden
- c. Brazil
- d. Japan
- e. Don't know

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13. Many economists argue that electricity prices in the U.S. are too low because:  
[Programming note: response items will be randomized, except for “Don’t know”]
- They do not reflect the costs of pollution from generating electricity
  - Too many suppliers go out of business
  - Electric companies have a monopoly in their own service area
  - Consumers spend only a small part of their income on energy
  - Don’t know
14. Which of the following is a leading cause of the depletion of fish stocks in the Atlantic Ocean?  
[Programming note: response items will be randomized, except for “Don’t know”]
- Fisherman seeking to maximize their catch
  - Reduced fish fertility due to genetic hybridization
  - Ocean pollution
  - Global climate change
  - Don’t know
15. Which of the following is the most commonly used definition of economic sustainability?  
[Programming note: response items will be randomized, except for “Don’t know”]
- Maximizing the share price of a company's stock
  - Long-term profitability
  - When costs equal revenue
  - Continually expanding market share
  - Don’t know
16. Which of the following is the primary reason that gasoline prices have risen over the past several decades in the U.S.?  
[Programming note: response items will be randomized, except for “Don’t know”]
- Growing percentage of gas stations owned by large corporations
  - Increasing oil discoveries overseas
  - Higher rates of state and federal gasoline tax
  - Increasing global demand for oil
  - Don’t know