

CSUN Assessment of Sustainability Knowledge (020514)

Please write your NAME and your CSUN email address on the scantron provided.

1. What is the most common cause of pollution of streams and rivers?
 - 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?
 - 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?
 - 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
4. Our local water supply in Los Angeles comes primarily from _____ and will _____ as a result of climate change:
 - a. the Colorado River; increase
 - b. the Colorado River; decrease
 - c. the Sierra Mountain snowpack; increase
 - d. the Sierra Mountain snowpack; decrease
 - e. Don't know
5. Which of the following is an example of sustainable forest management?
 - 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?
 - 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
7. Which of the following is the most commonly used definition of sustainable development?
 - 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?
- 20%
 - 35%
 - 50%
 - 85%
 - Don't know
9. Over the past 3 decades, what has happened to the difference between the wealth of the richest and poorest Americans?
- The difference has increased
 - The difference has stayed about the same
 - The difference has decreased
 - Don't know
10. Higher levels of education generally lead to...
- Lower levels of voter turnout
 - Greater annual earnings
 - Larger family size
 - Higher self esteem
 - Don't know
11. The most significant driver in the loss of species and ecosystems around the world is...
- Overhunting/overharvesting
 - Conversion of natural spaces into human developments (farmland, cities, etc.)
 - Acid rain
 - Breeding of animals in zoos
 - Don't know
12. Many economists argue that electricity prices in the U.S. are too low because...
- They do not reflect the costs of pollution from generating the electricity
 - Too many suppliers go out of business
 - Electric companies have a monopoly in their service area
 - Consumers spend only a small part of their income on energy
 - Don't know
13. Which of the following countries has now passed the U.S. as the biggest emitter of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide?
- China
 - Sweden
 - Brazil
 - Japan
 - Don't know
14. Which of the following is a leading cause of the depletion of fish stocks in the Atlantic Ocean?
- Fishermen 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?
- 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 last several decades in the U.S.?
- 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
17. Imagine that we had to pay for all the costs associated with the goods we use every day. What would go into calculating the true costs of a product?
- The cost of raw materials to make the product
 - The cost of environmental damage caused by production
 - The cost of health care for employees who manufacture the product
 - All of the above
 - Don't know
18. Arrange the following four activities in order from largest environmental impact to smallest environmental impact:
- W. Keeping a cell phone charger plugged into an electrical outlet for 12 hours
X. Producing one McDonald's quarter-pound hamburger
Y. Producing one McDonald's chicken sandwich
Z. Flying in a commercial airplane from Washington D.C. to China
- W, Y, X, Z
 - Z, W, X, Y
 - Z, Y, X, W
 - Z, X, Y, W
 - Don't know
19. 80% of the country's greenhouse gas emissions result from:
- agriculture
 - energy consumption
 - industrial processes
 - landfills
 - carbonated beverages
20. Which of the following devices, if left running one hour, would consume the most energy?
- microwave
 - cell phone charger
 - 60-watt light bulb
 - computer
 - refrigerator

21. Which of the following statements about water is true?
- Globally, water for personal use such as washing dishes, doing laundry, and bathing is the major user of water resources.
 - Globally, freshwater reserves (aquifers) are used faster than they are replenished.
 - Floods and severe weather will increase the availability of clean drinking water.
 - Because water is a free and abundant resource, it is not a major concern for most countries.
 - Don't know
22. Which of the following is the best explanation why oceans are becoming more acidic?
- The oceans are getting warmer.
 - The pH of oceans is increasing.
 - More carbon dioxide is dissolving in oceans.
 - Marine organisms are using up all the calcium carbonate to build shells.
 - pollution run-off is adding chemicals to the oceans
23. LEED refers to:
- standards for assessing the "greenness" of buildings
 - standards for evaluating the energy efficiency of light bulbs
 - a framework for assessing the local economy
 - standards for sustainable fisheries
 - standards for conserving wildlife
24. What do most scientists think is causing the current warming trend?
- Holes in the ozone layer allow more solar radiation to reach Earth.
 - Warm air from the increased number of cars on the road.
 - An increase in greenhouse gases.
 - An increased number of greenhouses.
 - The carbon cycle breaking down, and heat related by natural chemical breakdown.
25. Reducing or eliminating which of the following foods from your diet would have the biggest positive environmental impact?
- corn
 - eggs
 - milk
 - beef
 - I don't know

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26. Gender?
- Male
 - Female

- three or more
- don't know

27. Year in school?
- freshman
 - sophomore
 - junior
 - senior

29. College of your **major** subject?
- Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS)
 - Humanities (Hum)
 - Health and Human Development (HHD)
 - Arts, Media and Communication (AMC)
 - other (see Q30)

28. Number of Sustainability-related courses taken (including SUST-designated, SUST minor electives and GE Sustainability Path)?
- none
 - one
 - two

30. College of your **major** subject?
- Science and Math (S&M)
 - Engineering and Computer Science (ECS)
 - Education (Ed)
 - Business and Economics (COBE)
 - other (see Q29)