

Sustainability Literacy Assessment

1. Choose the best definition for “Sustainable Development”
 - a. Continual growth over a period of time, as measured in per capita GDP.
 - b. Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
 - c. Research and Development of sustainable technologies such as electric cars and solar power.
 - d. Reserving land and resources for preservation so they never can be used.
 - e. I don't know
2. Businesses often refer to the “bottom line” when talking about profit margins, what is the “triple bottom line?”
 - a. Income, Expense, Profit
 - b. Land, Labor, Capitol
 - c. People, Planet, Profit
 - d. Profit, Profit, Profit
 - e. I don't know
3. Which of the following negatively impacts social sustainability?
 - a. Rising literacy rates
 - b. Narrowing income gaps
 - c. War and social unrest
 - d. Impartial justice system
4. What federal agency oversees environmental regulation?
 - a. Environmental Protection Agency
 - b. Department of Agriculture
 - c. Council on Environmental Quality
 - d. Department of Health and Human services
 - e. I don't know
5. What percentage of the water on Earth is fit and available for human consumption?
 - a. 25%
 - b. 3%
 - c. 1%
 - d. 10%
 - e. I don't know
6. Having good public transportation and infrastructure is an example of what dimension(s) of sustainability?
 - a. Environmental
 - b. Socio-economic
 - c. Eco-economic
 - d. Social

- e. I don't know
7. The world's richest 20% consume _% of the world's resources
- 99%
 - 77%
 - 66%
 - 44%
 - I don't know
8. Which of the following costs are reflected in the price of gas you pay at the pump?
- Federal tax subsidies to competing domestic oil producers
 - Government spending on transportation and infrastructure, maintenance and clean up.
 - Environmental and public health costs caused by pollution
 - None of the above
 - I don't know
9. Which of the following activities are associated with the greatest water usages?
- Taking a bath every day for one year
 - Eating 1 lb. of beef per week for one year
 - Drinking 1 cup of coffee every day for one year
 - Eating two slices of bread every day for one year
- ❖ 36 gallon bath x 365 = 13,140
 - ❖ 15,000 gallons/ lb. x 52 weeks = 78,000
 - ❖ 37 gallons/ cup x 365 = 13,505
 - ❖ 22 gallons/ 2 slices x 365 = 4,015
10. Rachel Carson became famous for writing *Silent Spring* which brought attention to what issue?
- Land fill leakages
 - Pesticides
 - Radiation exposure
 - Bovine growth hormones
 - I don't know
11. At the time of European settlement, Wisconsin had more than 10 million acres of wetland. Today, only half remains. What is the importance of conserving wetlands?
- Water purification
 - Flood prevention
 - Tourism revenue
 - All of the above
 - I don't know
12. What is the largest source of pollution in lakes and rivers in the United States?
- Agricultural runoff
 - Sewage
 - Urban runoff
 - None of the above
 - I don't know

13. In the United States impervious surfaces cover more than 43,000 square miles. What are some effects caused by impervious surfaces such as buildings, roads and pavement?
- Aquifer depletion
 - Runoff pollutes lakes and streams
 - Flash flooding
 - All of the above
 - I don't know
14. Coal is a fossil fuel used to generate electricity. When it is burned it releases dangerous chemicals such as carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and mercury. The mining, cleaning and transportation of coal generates additional hazards. What percentage of electricity in Wisconsin comes from this form of energy?
- 22%
 - 49%
 - 62%
 - 84%
 - I don't know
15. Choose the best definition for economic sustainability.
- The ability for an economy to support a defined level of economic production indefinitely.
 - Social well-being and indefinite harmony marked by prosperity, justice, and high education rates.
 - The ability for an environment to support a level of environmental quality and natural resource extraction rates indefinitely.
 - The ability for an economy to sustain low levels of inflation and whose markets are globally competitive
16. Ozone forms a layer in the earth's atmosphere. What does ozone protect us from?
- Acid rain
 - Harmful UV rays
 - Sudden changes in temperature
 - Nothing
 - I don't know
17. What is a long-term effect of global climate change?
- Less severe weather incidents
 - Lower sea levels
 - Decreased atmospheric CO₂
 - Changing makeup of plant and animal communities
 - I don't know
18. Choose the best definition for biodiversity
- The variety of life in the world or in a particular habitat or ecosystems
 - The variety of ecosystems that a certain organism may inhabit
 - The resiliency an ecosystem has to changing temperatures and rainfall
 - All of the above

- e. I don't know
19. 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
20. 50% of humanity lives on (or less) than \$ ___/day.
- a. \$10.00
 - b. \$5.75
 - c. \$2.50
 - d. \$.25
 - e. I don't know
21. Some residence halls on the UWSP 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
22. Which of the following would be considered the best environmental practice?
- a. Recycling all recyclable goods
 - b. Buying "eco-friendly" and energy saving products
 - c. Reducing consumption of all goods.
 - d. Buying only the most durable goods.
23. Sometime products are labeled "fair trade" what does this label signify?
- a. The product does not come from a black market
 - b. The price of the product is not artificially inflated or deflated and is sold at a fair price
 - c. The product was produced in an ethical manner
 - d. The product is certified organic
 - e. I don't know
24. How do humans benefit from living in a sustainable society?
- a. continued economic revenue from responsible management practices
 - b. Increased health, drop in chronic illnesses
 - c. Less severe hardships associated with poverty
 - d. All of the above
 - e. I don't know
25. This former Wisconsin governor is famous for founding Earth Day.
- a. Philip La Follette
 - b. Tommy Thompson
 - c. Gaylord Nelson
 - d. Lee Dreyfus

Opinion Questions:

26. Fracking is a method of extracting oil or gas by injecting a liquid mixture at high pressure into porous subterranean rocks. While it is a booming source of domestic fossil fuels, it also comes with a wealth of environmental hazards. Are you in favor of the increased use of fracking?
27. Do you believe that global warming is mostly caused by human activity?
28. Rate the following sustainability concerns. 1 = urgent, warrants immediate action; 2 = problematic, warrants action; 3= potentially problematic, warrants long-term action; 4 = not very problematic, warrants no action; 5= I don't know
- Global carbon and greenhouse gas emissions
 - Pollution of rivers, lakes, and oceans
 - Groundwater depletion
 - Top-soil erosion
 - Rising wealth and income gaps
 - Social injustice of racial and ethnic minorities, LGBTQ members and women
 - Loss of wildlife habitat due to human development
 - Quality of life and animal rights issues for livestock

Sources

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<http://climate.nasa.gov/causes/>

<http://water.usgs.gov/edu/earthgwlandsubside.html>

<http://www.globalissues.org/article/26/poverty-facts-and-stats>

<http://www.progress.org/tpr/what-gasoline-really-costs-us/>

<http://www.waterfootprint.org/downloads/2009-GOODTransparancy.jpg>