Chapter 1: Environmental Problems and Society

Test Bank

# Multiple Choice

1. Which of the following terms best describes the study of community in the largest possible sense?

A. social ecology

B. environmental sociology

C. ecological dialogue

D. environmental justice

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Introduction

Difficulty Level: Easy

2. The interactions and interrelations of people, animals, land, water, and air form a kind of mutuality of consequence that is referred to as \_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. environmental justice

B. ecological dialogue

C. environmental sociology

D. social ecology

Ans: D

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Introduction

Difficulty Level: Easy

3. That climate change is a dangerous consequence of how we currently organize the economic side of social life best aligns with which of the following views?

A. idealist

B. constructionist

C. materialist

D. realist

Ans: C

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Introduction

Difficulty Level: Medium

4. According to the text, the mutual and unfinalizable interrelationship of what we see and feel with what we believe is best described as the \_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. social constitution of daily life

B. beauty of ecology

C. ecological dialogue

D. environmental goods and bads

Ans: C

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: The Ecology of Dialogue

Difficulty Level: Medium

5. The flourishing of mutual aid through communal ties within and across life forms is referred to as \_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. sustainability

B. environmental justice

C. beauty of ecology

D. environmental sociology

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Dialogue of Environmental Justice

Difficulty Level: Easy

6. Which of the following axes of environmental justice concerns what are often called issues of “sustainability?”

A. justice across time

B. justice across social space

C. justice across species

D. justice across humans

Ans: A

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: The Dialogue of Environmental Justice

Difficulty Level: Medium

7. The temporal myopia referred to as contempocentrism is associated with which axis of environmental justice?

A. justice across humans

B. justice across social space

C. justice across species

D. justice across time

Ans: D

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: The Dialogue of Environmental Justice

Difficulty Level: Medium

8. According to scientists, the blame for global climate change is *mostly* attributed to which of the following?

A. groundwater depletion

B. carbon dioxide emission from fossil fuel use

C. photochemical smog

D. fine particulates

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Global Climate Change

Difficulty Level: Medium

9. Which greenhouse gas amounts to about half of the other “forcings?”

A. methane

B. nitrous oxide

C. chlorofluorocarbons

D. black carbon

Ans: A

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Global Climate Change

Difficulty Level: Easy

10. According to the text, the majority of the world’s energy supply comes from which source?

A. coal

B. oil

C. nuclear

D. solar

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Energy

Difficulty Level: Easy

11. The method of “fracking” or hydraulic fracturing is associated with the production of which fossil fuel?

A. coal

B. nuclear

C. wind

D. oil and gas

Ans: D

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Fossil Fuels

Difficulty Level: Medium

12. What environmental problem did the “Montreal Protocol” seek to address?

A. a reduction of chlorofluorocarbons (CFC) production

B. a moratorium on the use of high sulfur coal implicated in acid rain

C. the need for the United States to establish an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

D. due process procedures for litigants in environment justice lawsuits

Ans: A

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: The Ozone “Hole”

Difficulty Level: Medium

13. What function does the upper atmosphere ozone layer serve?

A. It protects against the sun’s harmful ultraviolet radiation.

B. It traps heat in the earth’s atmosphere leading to the greenhouse effect.

C. It provides a rich source of CFC used as a refrigerant to fuel air conditioning units.

D. It is the source of oxygen needed to breathe.

Ans: A

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: The Ozone “Hole”

Difficulty Level: Medium

14. The World Bank defines “extreme” poverty as living on \_\_\_\_\_\_ a day or less in terms of local purchasing power.

A. US$1.90

B. US$2.35

C. US$3.50

D. US$5.90

Ans: A

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Income Inequality

Difficulty Level: Easy

15. Food insecurity is often referenced in relation to which type of inequality?

A. income

B. wealth

C. consumption

D. health

Ans: C

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Answer Location: Consumption Inequality

Difficulty Level: Medium

16. Aldo Leopold, one of the most important figures in the history of the environmental movement, directed attention to which word?

A. stability

B. beauty

C. romantic

D. intimacy

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Environmental Justice Across Species

Difficulty Level: Easy

17. Which of the following is considered to be the main cause of the loss of birds?

A. pesticides and agricultural intensification

B. photochemical smog

C. deforestation

D. hydraulic fracturing

Ans: A

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Decline and Loss of Species

Difficulty Level: Medium

18. Which of the following was identified as a threat to landscapes?

A. pesticide residue

B. water shortages

C. acid rain

D. photochemical smog

Ans: C

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Loss of Landscapes

Difficulty Level: Medium

19. According geologists, the most significant erosive force on the planet is \_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. wind and rain

B. toxic chemicals

C. animal grazing

D. humans

Ans: D

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Loss of Intimacy

Difficulty Level: Medium

20. Which of the following is an example of normal environmentalism?

A. racking up frequent flyer miles

B. walking or riding a bicycle to work

C. using appliances during peak hours

D. taking long showers and baths

Ans: B

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: The Dialogue of Environmental Justice

Difficulty Level: Hard

# True/False

1. Inequality is both a product and a producer of climate change, pollution, overconsumption, resource depletion, habitat loss, risky technology, and rapid population growth.

Ans: T

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Introduction

Difficulty Level: Medium

2. Idealists are more likely to argue that the practical thing to do is to solve the social organizational issues behind environmental problems.

Ans: F

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: The Ecology of Dialogue

Difficulty Level: Medium

3. Justice across social space is often called “environmental justice.”

Ans: T

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Dialogue of Environmental Justice

Difficulty Level: Easy

4. When averages are calculated for the entire globe, the 10 warmest years on record have all occurred since 2005.

Ans: F

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Global Climate Change

Difficulty Level: Easy

5. The ecological footprint analysis converts all the various demands we make on the Earth’s ecosystems to a measure of area.

Ans: T

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Threats to Land and Water

Difficulty Level: Medium

6. The social heritage differences in the distribution of environmental goods and bads, due to either intentional or institutional reasons, are referred to as environmental justice.

Ans: F

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: Who Gets the Bads?

Difficulty Level: Easy

7. The discrepancy in distribution of environmental goods is more extreme when calculations take into account wealth instead of income.

Ans: T

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Wealth Inequality

Difficulty Level: Medium

8. Environmental justice concerns only the conditions of human life.

Ans: F

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Environmental Justice Across Species

Difficulty Level: Medium

9. The loss of species is both a moral issue of justice and an instrumental issue of sustainability for all.

Ans: T

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Decline and Loss of Species

Difficulty Level: Medium

10. Normal environmentalism refers to environmentalism that you don’t have to worry about because you just find yourself doing it anyway.

Ans: T

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Social Constitution of Environmental Problems and Solutions

Difficulty Level: Easy

# Short Answer

1. Explain what is meant by the environmental sociological imagination.

Ans: Varies. The phrase environmental sociological imagination is defined by the authors of this text as gaining the ability to grasp history and biography and the relations between the two within society and ecology--to learn to understand our lives as minute points of the intersections of biography and history within society and ecology. This concept draws on sociologist C. Wright Mills concept of sociological imagination.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Introduction

Difficulty Level: Medium

2. What is the ecological dialogue?

Ans: Varies. Ecological dialogue is the interrelationship between what we see and feel with what we believe. It is not a matter of what we see is what we know, or what we believe is what we know. Rather, it is a matter of both together.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: The Ecology of Dialogue

Difficulty Level: Medium

3. Identify the three intersecting axes of environmental justice.

Ans: Varies. The three intersecting axes of environment justice are justice across time, justice across social space, and justice across species.

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Answer Location: The Dialogue of Environmental Justice

Difficulty Level: Easy

4. Discuss why, despite efforts, acid rain still threatens landscapes.

Ans: Varies. Although technological improvements, international treaties, and domestic legislation have all contributed to a sharp decline in sulfur emissions in most countries, we have made little overall progress in reducing nitrogen emissions. Industry’s advances have been overwhelmed by increased emissions from automobiles and trucks as the world comes to rely ever more on these highly polluting forms of transportation. Plus, there is evidence that the ability of sensitive ecosystems to handle acid rain has been damaged such that slight improvement in the acidity of rain often does not result in any improvement in the condition of lakes and forests.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Loss of Landscapes

Difficulty Level: Medium

5. What is the social constitution of daily life?

Ans: Varies. The social constitution of daily life refers to how we as a human community institute the many structures and motivations that pattern our days, making some actions convenient and immediately sensible and other actions not.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: The Social Constitution of Environmental Problems and Solutions

Difficulty Level: Medium

# Essay

1. Explain where the authors stand in terms of the ancient debate between more materialist and more idealist views about our practices of living

Ans: Varies. The approach that the authors take to the ancient debate is that the material and the ideal dimensions of the environment depend upon and interact with each other, and together they constitute the practical conditions of our lives. What we believe depends on what we see and feel, and what we see and feel depends on what we believe--and therefore do. It is not a matter of either/or; rather, it is a matter of both together. Each helps constitute and reconstitute the other, in a process that will never, we must hope, finish.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: The Ecology of Dialogue

Difficulty Level: Medium

2. Discuss some of the ecological disruptions that climate change will bring.

Ans: Varies. Students can choose to discuss and elaborate on any of the following ecological disruptions listed in the section on Global Climate Change: ocean acidification, increased risk of extinction for 30% of species; gradual replacement of tropical forests with savanna in eastern Amazonia, more disease due to warmer weather, more variable weather, more floods, more storms more wildfires, more drinking water shortages, drought stress, and competition between humans for surface waters.

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Answer Location: Global Climate Change

Difficulty Level: Medium

3. Illustrate how hydraulic fracturing, also referred to as fracking, poses major challenges to the three axes of environmental justice: justice across time, justice across social space, and justice across species.

Ans: Varies. While fracking is considered to be advantageous due to the huge gains in the production of oil and gas, the process poses major challenges to environmental justice. The chemicals and gases used in fracking can seep into water wells used by residents and pollute the air, which in turn contributes to climate change. The high pressure used in the process not only fractures the rock but also sometimes induces earthquakes that can cause damage to infrastructure. In addition, a lot of the drill water comes back up to the surface after the injecting is done, and these wastewaters can pick up radiation underground, in addition to their toxic mixture of drilling chemicals. This wastewater is often poorly handled. And, the special “frack sand” entails extensive surface mining, radically reshaping local landscapes, broadcasting fine dust particles into the air, and using vast quantities of water to wash and sort the grains. These are all examples of how fracking poses challenges not just across time but also across social space and species.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Fossil Fuels

Difficulty Level: Hard

4. Explain how we get normal environmentalism. Use examples to illustrate your answer.

Ans: Varies. In order to induce people to be environmentally good without having to be environmentally good is to reconstitute the constitution of everyday life. This can be done by organizing social life so that it encourages environmentally friendly decisions. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: making biking to work enjoyable, safe, and convenient; having adequate public transportation; ensuring that businesses, stores, schools, government offices, restaurants, and places of worship that are easily accessible and centrally located; making sure that the foods and products we buy are made in ways that do not undermine the well-being of the places and people that made them, without having to check the labels and research them online, and so on.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Various

Difficulty Level: Hard

5. As an expert in environmental sociology, you have been asked to give a brief speech at a major international conference on the future of the world’s environment. What will you say? Be sure in your speech to say whether we should be optimistic or pessimistic. Justify your answer sociologically, drawing on material from this chapter.

Ans: Varies. However, the student should reflect on the major issues discussed in the chapter, including but not limited to energy, global warming, the ozone hole, smog, fine particulates in the air, acid rain, water pollution, groundwater and surface water depletion, soil erosion, soil salinization, farmland loss, and declining agricultural productivity per capita, and so on.

Cognitive Domain: Application

Answer Location: Various

Difficulty Level: Hard