

Chapter 1 - Environment, Human Systems, and Social Science

Multiple Choice Questions

1. A(n) _____ is the location of an organism within an ecosystem, while its _____ is its role in a community of organisms.

- a. ecological niche; habitat
- b. habitat; ecological niche
- c. biome; niche
- d. niche; biome

ANS: b

PG: 5

2. Which statement about energy is true?

- a. Energy can be recycled infinitely without any degradation.
- b. Energy runs downhill, and cannot be recycled for the same use repeatedly.
- c. It is easy to create new energy.
- d. None of the above is true.

ANS: b

PG: 3

3. The transfer of energy from primary producer sources through a series of consumer organisms is known as a food:

- a. loop.
- b. base.
- c. chain.
- d. cycle.

ANS: c

PG: 5

4. _____ is the ultimate source of the earth's energy.

- a. Solar radiation
- b. The biosphere
- c. Carbon
- d. The lithosphere

ANS: a

PG: 3

5. _____ analyzed the relationships between different environments and ecosystems in terms of compartments.

- a. Malthus
- b. Harper
- c. Odum
- d. Bell

ANS: c

PG: 7

6. According to the text, worldviews and paradigms are best classified as part of:
- culture.
 - social structure.
 - material infrastructure.
 - cultural substrate.
- ANS: a
PG: 9
7. _____ are both structural and cultural, and address human concerns related to collective survival.
- Statuses
 - Roles
 - Social institutions
 - Paradigms
- ANS: c
PG: 7
8. _____ refers to human definitions and interpretations of the biophysical environment.
- Dualism
 - Idealism
 - Rationality
 - Cognized environment
- ANS: d
PG: 8
9. In which type of exchange are resources shifted upward so that they can be reallocated?
- redistribution
 - reciprocity
 - network
 - market
- ANS: a
PG: 12
10. Industrialization led to which of the following?
- a class system based on ownership of land
 - increased cottage craft production
 - increased demand for rural labor
 - none of the above
- ANS: d
PG: 14
11. _____ claimed that the unseen hand of the marketplace would produce the best economic and social outcomes.
- David Ricardo
 - Adam Smith
 - Thomas Malthus
 - Karl Marx
- ANS: b
PG: 18

12. _____ suggested that conflicting material interests would lead to socialism.
- a. Adam Smith
 - b. David Ricardo
 - c. Thomas Malthus
 - d. Karl Marx
- ANS: d
PG: 18
13. _____ implies that the economy is a closed system with pendulum like movement between production and consumption.
- a. Classical economics
 - b. Neoclassical economics
 - c. Ecological economics
 - d. Postmodern economics
- ANS: b
PG: 19
14. _____ economics sees the economy as a growing, dependent subsystem of a materially closed, finite ecosphere.
- a. Classical economics
 - b. Neoclassical economics
 - c. Ecological economics
 - d. Postmodern economics
- ANS: c
PG: 19
15. According to Catton and Dunlap, classical sociology is associated with which paradigm?
- a. Ecological Modernization
 - b. Finite World
 - c. Human Exemptionalism
 - d. New Ecological
- ANS: c
PG: 21
16. The distinctive element of Durkheim's sociology was his emphasis on:
- a. dominance patterns.
 - b. ecological disruption.
 - c. culture and cultural values.
 - d. managed scarcity.
- ANS: c
PG: 24
17. Simple and homogenous societies with powerful cultural rules are characterized by _____ solidarity.
- a. mechanical
 - b. organic
 - c. manifest
 - d. latent
- ANS: a
PG: 24

18. As discussed in the text, Durkheim thought that the struggle for scarce resources would culminate in:

- a. the eventual breakdown and collapse of industrial society.
- b. mass starvation.
- c. a more complex division of labor.
- d. a and b

ANS: c

PG: 24

19. Which of the following human variables are considered to be driving forces of environmental and ecosystem change?

- a. institutions
- b. technological change
- c. culture
- d. all of the above

ANS: d

PG: 27

20. In sociology, functionalist theories are most concerned with:

- a. ideologies and the social construction of reality
- b. the struggle for scarce resources
- c. systems and subsystems
- d. a and b

ANS: c

PG: 24

True/False Questions

1. The concepts of ecosystem and environment can be used interchangeably.

- a. True
- b. False

ANS: False

PG: 3

2. The first law of thermodynamics states that energy cannot be created or destroyed.

- a. True
- b. False

ANS: True

PG: 3

3. Larger numbers of people can be sustained if they consume foods that are at lower levels on the food chain.

- a. True
- b. False

ANS: True

PG: 5

4. Parasitism is not classified as a symbiotic relationship.

- a. True
- b. False

ANS: False
PG: 6

5. A rose garden consisting of only American Beauty roses is a monoculture.

a. True
b. False

ANS: True
PG: 11

6. The concept of a cognized environment implies a high degree of scientific objectivity with little room for subjective impressions.

a. True
b. False

ANS: False
PG: 11

7. Exchanges of reciprocity produce mutually beneficial relationships in a social system.

a. True
b. False

ANS: True
PG: 12

8. Money became the most important material resource in the industrial society.

a. True
b. False

ANS: True
PG: 12

9. While industrialization brought about a new class structure, population growth was kept in check by frequent, large-scale outbreaks of disease.

a. True
b. False

ANS: False
PG: 14

10. According to the text, scientific research strongly supports the idea that the total collapse of industrial society is imminent.

a. True
b. False

ANS: False
PG: 15

11. A key feature of the Dominant Western Worldview is the value it places on nature for its own sake.

a. True
b. False

ANS: False
PG: 16

12. While the Dominant Western Worldview affects developed, industrialized societies, it has little impact on the less developed nations.
- a. True
 - b. False
- ANS: False
PG: 17
13. David Ricardo argued that the economic growth associated with industrialization would benefit landlords, but not workers or capitalists.
- a. True
 - b. False
- ANS: True
PG: 18
14. In the neoclassical economists' view, the economy contains the ecosystem as resources bases and pollution sinks.
- a. True
 - b. False
- ANS: True
PG: 18-19
15. Emissions trading schemes have not had much impact on producers of pollution in the United States.
- a. True
 - b. False
- ANS: False
PG: 20
16. Catton and Dunlap have suggested that sociologists should adopt the Human Exemptionalism Paradigm.
- a. True
 - b. False
- ANS: False
PG: 21
17. According to the New Ecological Paradigm, humans live in a finite biophysical environment that imposes potent restraints on human behaviors.
- a. True
 - b. False
- ANS: True
PG: 22
18. Dunlap and Catton suggest that ecosystems function as supply depots, living spaces, and waste repositories.
- a. True
 - b. False
- ANS: True
PG: 25

19. The most significant environmental changes today are anthropogenic.

a. True

b. False

ANS: True

PG: 27

20. Neoclassical economists see human-environment problems in terms of market failures and resource allocation problems.

a. True

b. False

ANS: True

PG: 28

Essay Questions

1. Compare and contrast the Dominant Western Worldview with the Human Exemptionalism Paradigm.

2. Discuss Allan Schnaiberg's conflict theory of human-environment interaction.

3. Identify and discuss the components of an ecosystem. Be sure to give examples.

4. Describe ecosystem change and human-environment interaction. Be sure to give examples.