

# Environmental Science Final Exam Answer Key

Environmental Science Final Exam Answer Key Environmental Science Final Exam Answer Key I Multiple Choice 2 points each 40 points total 1 The primary source of energy for most ecosystems is a Wind b Geothermal heat c Solar energy d Tidal energy Answer c Solar energy 2 The process by which producers convert sunlight into chemical energy is called a Respiration b Photosynthesis c Decomposition d Nitrogen fixation Answer b Photosynthesis 3 Which of the following is NOT a greenhouse gas a Carbon dioxide CO<sub>2</sub> b Methane CH<sub>4</sub> c Nitrogen N<sub>2</sub> d Nitrous oxide N<sub>2</sub>O Answer c Nitrogen N<sub>2</sub> 4 The ozone layer is important because it a Absorbs ultraviolet radiation from the sun b Regulates global temperatures c Traps heat in the atmosphere d Provides oxygen for breathing Answer a Absorbs ultraviolet radiation from the sun 5 A keystone species is a A species that is the most abundant in an ecosystem 2 b A species that has a disproportionately large impact on the ecosystem c A species that is at the top of the food chain d A species that is introduced to a new environment Answer b A species that has a disproportionately large impact on the ecosystem 6 The process by which a species adapts to its environment over time is called a Evolution b Succession c Extinction d Mutation Answer a Evolution 7 Which of the following is a nonrenewable resource a Solar energy b Wind energy c Fossil fuels d Hydroelectric power Answer c Fossil fuels 8 The most common cause of deforestation is a Logging b Agriculture c Urbanization d Mining Answer b Agriculture 9 The greenhouse effect is a The warming of the Earths atmosphere due to the trapping of heat by greenhouse gases b The cooling of the Earths atmosphere due to the reflection of sunlight by clouds c The process by which plants convert sunlight into chemical energy d The process by which pollutants are released into the atmosphere Answer a The warming of the Earths atmosphere due to the trapping of heat by greenhouse gases 10 The term biodiversity refers to a The variety of life on Earth b The number of species in an ecosystem 3 c The genetic diversity within a species d All of the above Answer d All of the above 11 The process by which pollutants become more concentrated as they move up the food chain is called a Biomagnification b Bioaccumulation c Eutrophication d Acidification Answer a Biomagnification 12 The major sources of air pollution include a Industrial emissions b Vehicle exhaust c Burning fossil fuels d All of the above Answer d All of the above 13 The term sustainable development refers to a Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs b Development that is environmentally friendly c Development that is economically sustainable d Development that is socially just Answer a Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs 14 The process by which the Earths oceans become more acidic is called a Eutrophication b Acidification c Salinization d Desertification Answer b Acidification 15 The term anthropogenic refers to a Human caused 4 b Natural c Biological d Chemical Answer a Human caused 16 The Kyoto Protocol is an international agreement aimed at a Reducing greenhouse gas emissions b Protecting biodiversity c Reducing deforestation d Promoting sustainable development Answer a Reducing greenhouse gas

emissions 17 The process by which excess nutrients enter a body of water leading to algal blooms and oxygen depletion is called a Eutrophication b Acidification c Salinization d Desertification Answer a Eutrophication 18 The term carbon footprint refers to a The amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere by a person or organization b The amount of carbon stored in a forest c The amount of carbon used in the production of a product d The amount of carbon absorbed by the oceans Answer a The amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere by a person or organization 19 The Tragedy of the Commons refers to a The overuse of shared resources b The extinction of species c The destruction of habitats d The pollution of water resources Answer a The overuse of shared resources 20 Which of the following is a renewable energy source a Coal b Oil c Natural gas d Solar energy Answer d Solar energy II Short Answer 5 points each 30 points total 1 Describe the difference between a renewable and nonrenewable resource Answer A renewable resource is one that can be replenished naturally at a rate comparable to or faster than its consumption such as solar wind or hydro energy A nonrenewable resource is one that exists in a fixed amount and cannot be replenished at a rate comparable to its consumption such as fossil fuels 2 Explain the concept of the ecological footprint Answer The ecological footprint is a measure of human demand on the Earths ecosystems It represents the amount of biologically productive land and water area needed to supply the resources a person or population consumes and to absorb the waste they generate 3 Describe the relationship between biodiversity and ecosystem services Answer Biodiversity the variety of life on Earth is crucial for providing essential ecosystem services These services include pollination pest control water purification climate regulation and soil fertility Higher biodiversity generally leads to more resilient and productive ecosystems 4 What is the difference between a point source and a nonpoint source of pollution Answer A point source of pollution is a single identifiable source of pollution such as a factory or sewage treatment plant A nonpoint source of pollution is a diffuse source such as runoff from agricultural fields or urban areas where it is difficult to pinpoint the exact origin 5 What are the main causes of climate change and what are some of the potential consequences Answer The main cause of climate change is the humaninduced increase in greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels Potential consequences include rising global temperatures more extreme weather events rising sea levels and shifts in ecosystems 6 Explain the difference between adaptation and mitigation in the context of climate change 6 Answer Climate change adaptation involves adjusting to the actual or expected effects of climate change while mitigation involves reducing greenhouse gas emissions to lessen the severity of climate change III Essay 20 points Choose one of the following topics and write a welldeveloped essay addressing the following questions Topic 1 The role of technology in addressing environmental challenges Topic 2 The importance of environmental justice in addressing environmental problems Topic 3 The challenges and opportunities of sustainable development Essay Outline Example for Topic 1 Briefly define environmental challenges Introduce the role of technology in addressing these challenges Body Paragraphs Discuss specific examples of how technology can be used to address environmental issues eg renewable energy technologies pollution control sustainable agriculture Analyze the potential benefits and drawbacks of these technologies Consider the ethical implications of technological solutions to environmental problems Conclusion Summarize the role of technology in environmental solutions Reflect on the

importance of responsible innovation and collaboration in addressing environmental challenges Note This is a general outline and should be adapted to your chosen topic Be sure to include specific examples evidence and analysis to support your arguments Remember to Use clear and concise language Organize your thoughts logically Cite any sources you use Proofread carefully for grammar and spelling errors 1000 words approximately 7

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