

## **Environmental Sociology**

### **Possible Test Questions for Test 3:**

**Be sure to include information from the texts and not just the PowerPoints when answering. These will be updated and revised so watch the updated date to be sure you have the most recent version.**

**UPDATED: April 1, 2024**

Stuart, Chapter 3:

1. (a.) What are the three global drivers of environmental impacts being experienced in the world. Be sure to note the equation provided by Stuart and describe it, including each of the components in the equation. (b.) Also be sure to include how GDP fits into the equation and (c.) how the equation is related to Co<sub>2</sub>, landfills, the oceans and the ecological footprint.
2. Stuart states: “There are those who believe that significant environmental impacts emerge during the early stages of economic development and can be addressed with technological and efficiency advances as development continues.” And, “...those who believe that economic growth will always result in environmental harm argue for a different solution.”  
  
(a. and b.) Describe each of these views. What does each view believe regarding the solutions to the environmental problems we face. (b.) Provide examples. (c.) How would each view: the four-day work week? (d.) The ecological footprint? (e.) “Less is more?”
3. What are the individual and household drivers of environmental impacts—be sure to rely on Stuart’s discussion. How does the sociology of consumption explain consumer behavior? How does Stuart define ideology and what part does it play?
4. (a.) What does the “treadmill of production” refer too? (b.) What is metabolic rift theory? (c.) How is agriculture and the fishing industry related to the metabolic rift? (d.) How is it that production drives consumption—isn’t this backwards—explain.

Hannigan, Chapter 5

1. Discuss how the mass media have covered environmental issues differently over the years beginning in the early 1900s, through the 1960s, 80s, 90s and into recent decades. How have topics changed over time? What is the overview effect and why was it important? What was the golden age?

2. What does Hannigan describe as the cornerstones of journalism? Explain. How is this related to how journalists view themselves? What is the traditional technique for reporting described by Hannigan and what risk does he describe may result?
3. Hannigan describes 5 key factors associated with keeping environmental issues at the forefront of people's attention. Describe the three you feel are most important and explain why.
4. Why do we care about the media when studying Environmental Sociology? What factors influence the manufacturing of news stories? How does the constraint of time/space affect what is reported and how it is reported?
5. When journalists create their own stories, sometimes they may twist the facts to get attention. In what ways might they twist the facts? Why do reporters sometimes avoid going into detail when reporting an environmental issue?
6. Hannigan considers catastrophes as the bread and butter of environmental coverage and organizes them into two types. Describe each type and provide examples. What is the disadvantage of focusing on discrete (specific) events?