

UPDATED: January 29, 2025

Environmental Sociology

Roughly four or five of the following discussion questions will make up Test 1

**The questions on the test will be randomly selected
(there is no strategy as to which questions are selected).**

For your answers, be sure to include information from the assigned readings and not just the PowerPoints; the more specific your answers, the clearer it will be that you read and understood the readings and so the better the grade.

Stuart, Chapter 1 (and PowerPoints):

1. (a.) What is environmental sociology? (b.) Why study the environment from a sociological perspective? (c.) What is public sociology and what is its advantage? (d.) What is the climate crisis? (e.) What is causing it? (f.) What are its effects? (g.) How is it a threat to the human race? (h.) How is the “global tipping point” related?
2. (a.) What is the biodiversity crisis? (b.) What is causing it? (c.) What are its effects? (d.) Provide several examples. (e.) How is it a threat to the human race? (f.) What is environmental injustice? (g.) What causes it and what effects does it have? (h.) Provide at least two examples.
3. (a.) Stuart notes that both social structures and human behaviors contribute to global warming. (b.) Define each. (c.) Give examples of each and how they contribute to the problem. (d.) Which do you believe is doing the most harm and why?
4. (a.) What is the “greenhouse effect”? (b.) What causes it to happen? (c.) What effects does it have? (d.) What would reduce the greenhouse effect? (e.) What is acid rain? (f.) What causes it? (g.) What effects does it have?

Yeatts, Cooksey, Messenger chapter (and PowerPoints)

5. (a.) What are the three “legs” of sustainable community development (SCD)? (b.) Draw a diagram to demonstrate them. (c.) Describe how each leg competes with the other two and (d.) provide an example in each case. (e.) Describe how each leg collaborates with the other two. (f.) Provide examples in each case.
6. (a.) Describe four social beliefs/developments that were allowing pollution to take place. (b.) What did cities and states do when the pollution problems started to become evident? (c.) Why? (d.) Describe four conditions that were causing people to develop concern about the environment? (e.) What did the federal government do? (f.) Why? (g.) When was the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) created? (h.) What is its purpose?

7. (a.) What strategies did the EPA initially use to get its purpose/goals accomplished? (b.) Were the strategies successful? (c.) Provide examples. (d.) List at least four problems created by the strategies used. (e.) For each listed, discuss how the strategy affected businesses and industry. (f.) How did businesses and industry respond to the strategies.
8. (a.) When considering the history of the environmental movement, describe the characteristics of Era 2. (b.) Provide multiple reasons for why the EPA had difficulty controlling pollution with regulations? (c.) Discuss the importance of “buy-in.” (d.) Describe at least four factors helping the EPA to obtain buy-in.
9. (a.) Describe at least three characteristics of the third era? (b.) What has made this time period more effective than the previous two eras? (c.) Why is Seattle given attention? (d.) What is the purpose of sustainable community indicators? (e.) Provide several examples.
10. (a.) What are energy-efficient technologies? (b.) Provide examples. (c.) How are these related to the Energy Star Partnership Program? (d.) What is LEED? (e.) What is its purpose and (f.) how does it accomplish it? (g.) Describe the three major factors that are preventing people from using energy-efficient technologies? (h.) Provide examples of each.
11. (a.) What is “smart-growth?” (b.) How does it compare to eco-villages? (c.) What are brownfields and (d.) brownfield development? (e.) Where are they typically found and why? (f.) how are they related to gentrification? (g.) “What are ecological footprints?” (h.) Provide examples.