

Environmental Sociology

Possible Test Questions for Test 4: Four will be on the Test
(Be sure to answer each part of the question and
be sure to include information from the texts and not just
the PowerPoints when answering)

Stuart, Chapter 4 and Power Point slides:

1. Stuart identifies two primary causes (or drivers) for our environmental problems (EPs).
(a.) Describe each and explain how they contribute to our EPs. (b.) Why does Stuart consider these to be fundamental causes of our EPs? (c.) For each cause, describe several possible solutions and provide examples of the solutions.
2. (a.) Should it be the responsibility of individuals to actively identify and minimize their environmental impacts? (b.) List 6 very different things individuals can do to reduce their environmental impact. (c.) Should a focus on individual impacts be a primary focus for solving the environmental problems? Make an argument for (d.) yes and then make an argument for (d.) no. The more reasons you can give for each case the better.
3. (a.) What does the “theory of structural change” propose? (b.) Describe at least three things that could be done to implement the social changes suggested? (c.) How would each help? (d.) What does the gross domestic product (GDP) and the Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI) have to do with structural change? (e.) Who are opposed to this theoretical approach to solving the environmental problems?
4. (a.) What is the difference between practicing “green consumption” and reducing overall consumption? (b.) Which would be most impactful? (c.) Make an argument for and against each practice. (d.) Which is more likely to happen and why?
5. (a.) Define individual reflexivity and precautionary consumption. (b.) How are they related? (c.) Is precautionary consumption by individuals a good approach to reducing the use of toxins? Provide reasons for and against. (d.) How do the U.S. and European countries differ with regard to precautionary consumption?
6. (a.) What is “ecological modernization (EM)?” (b.) What is the argument for it? (c.) Provide arguments against it (at least 3)? (d.) How is technology related to the theory? (e.) Describe current technologies (e.g., energy sources) that could assist or support EM and several technologies that could perhaps be developed in the future. (f.) How is EM different from reflexive modernization? (g.) What are your thoughts about this theory—do you think it accurately describes what would happen if it was put into practice (why or why not) and does it have a chance of being implemented? Explain.

7. (a.) Why do some propose that society should shorten the number of hours people typically work? (b.) Describe at least 3 ways this could be accomplished. (c.) How might it be enforced? (d.) What are arguments against shortening the work week? (e.) What else beyond the number of hours worked did we consider in class as a means of accomplishing the same thing.

Stuart, Chapter 5

8. (a.) What are the major characteristics of a social movement? (b.) How might the double movement be applied when considering the environment? (c.) In terms of decisions that are within the control of the climate movement organizations, Stuart lists four characteristics that are most likely to make the climate movement organizations successful. Describe at least three of these.