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## Assessment Tool for Assessing Sustainability Literacy and Knowledge of All Students

### 1. What are the three "pillars" of sustainability?

- a) Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
- b) Social, Environmental, and Economic
- c) People, Planets, and Profits
- d) Solar, Wind, and Water

### 2. Which of the following is the most widely used definition of Sustainable Development?

- a) Development that prioritizes industrial growth above all else.
- b) Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- c) A global movement to return to pre-industrial living standards.
- d) The protection of natural resources by banning all human use.

### 3. What does "Carrying Capacity" refer to in an ecosystem?

- a) The maximum weight a bridge can hold.
- b) The maximum population size of a species that an environment can sustain indefinitely.
- c) The amount of cargo a ship can carry across the ocean.
- d) The total number of trees in a specific forest.

### 4. What is the primary cause of the "Greenhouse Effect"?

- a) Excess heat escaping from the Earth's core.
- b) Gases in the atmosphere trapping heat from the sun.
- c) Holes in the ozone layer allowing more sunlight to reach Earth.
- d) The reflection of light off the polar ice caps.

### 5. Which of the following is a "non-renewable" resource?

- a) Solar energy
- b) Timber (Forests)
- c) Natural Gas
- d) Freshwater

### 6. What is the most common cause of pollution in rivers and streams worldwide?

- a) Direct dumping of trash by individuals.
- b) Accidental oil spills from tankers.
- c) Surface water runoff from roads, farms, and lawns.
- d) Natural debris like fallen leaves.

**7. "Biodiversity" is best defined as:**

- The number of different species in a specific habitat or on Earth.
- The process of plants converting sunlight into energy.
- The migration patterns of birds across continents.
- The study of ancient fossils.

**8. Which human activity contributes the most to global carbon dioxide emissions?**

- Agriculture and livestock farming.
- Burning fossil fuels for electricity, heat, and transport.
- Deforestation for urban development.
- Plastic manufacturing.

**9. "Environmental Justice" is the concept that:**

- Animals should have the same legal rights as humans.
- All people, regardless of race or income, deserve equal protection from environmental hazards.
- People who pollute should be sent to prison immediately.
- Only wealthy nations should be responsible for cleaning the oceans.

**10. What does the "Triple Bottom Line" in business refer to?**

- Revenue, Expenses, and Net Profit.
- Product, Price, and Promotion.
- Profit, People, and Planet.
- Management, Labor, and Shareholders.

**11. Which of the following is an example of a "Circular Economy"?**

- Buying a product, using it, and throwing it in the trash.
- Designing products so that their materials can be recovered and reused at the end of their life.
- Buying products only from companies located in your own city.
- Increasing production to lower the cost of goods.

**12. What is "True Cost Accounting"?**

- a) Calculating the price of a product based solely on raw materials.
- b) Including environmental and social costs (like pollution or healthcare) in the final price of a product.
- c) A method used by governments to hide debt.
- d) The process of comparing prices between two different stores.

**13. Regarding global water supply, which statement is true?**

- Most of the water on Earth is fresh and drinkable.
- We are using groundwater (aquifers) faster than they can be naturally replenished.
- Global warming will increase the total amount of clean drinking water available.
- Water is an infinite resource and does not need conservation.

**14. What is the most effective way to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills?**

- Switching from plastic bags to paper bags.
- Improving the technology used at incinerators.
- Reducing the consumption of goods and reusing what we already have.
- Creating larger landfills in remote areas.

**15. "Greenwashing" refers to:**

- a) The process of cleaning solar panels with eco-friendly soap.
- b) When a company spends more time/money claiming to be "green" than actually implementing sustainable practices.
- c) Planting trees in urban areas to reduce "heat islands."
- d) A new method of recycling greywater from laundry machines.

**16. How many "Sustainable Development Goals" (SDGs) were established by the United Nations?**

- a) 5
- b) 10
- c) 17
- d) 25

**17. Which of these lifestyle changes has the largest impact on reducing an individual's carbon footprint?**

- a) Switching to LED lightbulbs.
- b) Unplugging a phone charger when not in use.
- c) Reducing air travel and eating a plant-heavy diet.
- d) Printing on both sides of a piece of paper.

**18. What is "Carbon Neutrality"?**

- a) Eliminating all carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.
- b) Balancing carbon emissions with carbon removal or offsets.
- c) Using only carbon-based fuels for energy.
- d) A chemical state where carbon does not react with oxygen.

**19. What is the primary benefit of a "Wetland" ecosystem?**

- a) They provide flat land that is easy to build on.
- b) They naturally filter pollutants from water and provide flood control.
- c) They prevent all mosquitoes and insects from breeding.
- d) They are the best places to store hazardous waste.

**20. In the context of sustainability, "Intergenerational Equity" means:**

- a) Older generations should pay higher taxes than younger generations.
- b) Ensuring that the actions of the current generation do not limit the opportunities of future generations.
- c) All generations should have the same access to the internet.
- d) Encouraging people of all ages to work in the same office.

**Answer Key**

1. **b** | 2. **b** | 3. **b** | 4. **b** | 5. **c** | 6. **c** | 7. **a** | 8. **b** | 9. **b** | 10. **c** | 11. **b** | 12. **b** | 13. **b** | 14. **c** | 15. **b** | 16. **c** | 17. **c** | 18. **b** | 19. **b** | 20. **b**