

Environmental Science History

Environmental Science · Practice Test · 15 Questions

1. Which 1952 environmental disaster led directly to the UK's Clean Air Act of 1956?

- A) The Great Smog of London
- B) The Windscale Fire
- C) The Flixborough disaster
- D) The Aberfan disaster

2. In 1974, Mario Molina and F. Sherwood Rowland published a paper identifying which chemical compounds as the primary cause of ozone depletion?

- A) Sulfur hexafluoride
- B) Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)
- C) Nitrous oxide
- D) Polychlorinated biphenyls

3. The 'Keeling Curve,' which provides ongoing evidence of rising atmospheric CO₂ concentrations, began recording data at which location in 1958?

- A) South Pole Station
- B) Mauna Loa Observatory
- C) Cape Grim Baseline Air Pollution Station
- D) Barrow Atmospheric Baseline Observatory

4. Which 1972 report commissioned by the Club of Rome used computer modeling to predict the consequences of unchecked economic and population growth on planetary resources?

- A) The Brundtland Report
- B) The Limits to Growth
- C) The Stern Review
- D) The Ehrlich Report

5. What was the primary environmental objective of the 1987 Montreal Protocol?

- A) Reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- B) Banning the use of DDT
- C) Phasing out ozone-depleting substances
- D) Establishing marine protected areas

6. The 1984 Bhopal disaster involved the accidental release of which toxic gas from a pesticide plant?

- A) Methyl isocyanate
- B) Phosgene
- C) Hydrogen cyanide
- D) Chlorine gas

7. Who is credited with sparking the modern environmental movement in the United States with the 1962 publication of 'Silent Spring'?

- A) Aldo Leopold
- B) John Muir
- C) Rachel Carson
- D) Garrett Hardin

8. The 1979 Three Mile Island accident, the most significant nuclear incident in U.S. commercial history, occurred in which state?

- A) New York
- B) Pennsylvania
- C) Ohio
- D) New Jersey

9. What was the first international treaty to set legally binding emissions reduction targets for developed countries to combat global warming?

- A) Kyoto Protocol
- B) Paris Agreement
- C) Copenhagen Accord
- D) Rio Earth Summit

10. Minamata disease, recognized in the 1950s, was caused by the industrial discharge of which substance into the sea?

- A) Cadmium
- B) Lead
- C) Methylmercury
- D) Arsenic

11. The 'Great Acceleration,' a term describing the surge in human impact on the Earth system, is widely cited by scientists as beginning around which decade?

- A) 1920s
- B) 1950s
- C) 1970s
- D) 1990s

12. The 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill was a catalyst for which major piece of U.S. legislation?

- A) Clean Water Act
- B) Endangered Species Act
- C) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- D) Toxic Substances Control Act

13. Which 19th-century scientist was the first to calculate that human-induced CO₂ emissions could lead to global warming?

- A) John Tyndall
- B) Svante Arrhenius
- C) Guy Stewart Callendar
- D) Charles David Keeling

14. The Love Canal disaster, which led to the creation of the Superfund program in the U.S., involved chemical waste buried under what?

- A) A school and residential neighborhood
- B) A major metropolitan water reservoir
- C) An industrial manufacturing zone
- D) A national park wilderness area

15. The 1977 treaty known as the ENMOD Convention prohibits which of the following?

- A) Deep sea mining
- B) Nuclear waste dumping at sea
- C) Military use of environmental modification techniques
- D) Transboundary air pollution