

# Civics and Environmental Facts

Civics & Government · Answer Key · 15 Questions

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**1. Which international agreement, aimed at protecting endangered species, has been ratified by over 180 countries and includes provisions for regulating the international trade of wild animals and plants?**

- A) The Kyoto Protocol
- B) The Paris Agreement
- C) The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)**
- D) The Montreal Protocol

**2. In many countries, government agencies are responsible for managing national parks and protected areas. Which Australian federal government department plays a key role in managing Commonwealth national parks and heritage places?**

- A) Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment**
- B) Department of Health
- C) Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- D) Department of the Treasury

**3. The 'Tragedy of the Commons' is a concept often discussed in relation to environmental governance. It describes a situation where individual users of a shared resource, acting independently according to their own self-interest, behave contrary to the common good of all users by depleting or spoiling that resource. Which of the following is an example of a 'common' resource?**

- A) A privately owned farm
- B) A public library
- C) A shared fishing ground**
- D) A personal vehicle

**4. Which branch of government in a presidential system is typically responsible for enacting laws related to environmental protection, such as setting emissions standards for vehicles?**

- A) The Executive Branch
- B) The Judicial Branch
- C) The Legislative Branch**
- D) The Bureaucratic Branch

**5. The establishment of marine protected areas (MPAs) is a conservation strategy often implemented by governments. What is a primary goal of many MPAs in relation to marine ecosystems?**

- A) To encourage commercial fishing in designated zones
- B) To restrict all human activity, including research
- C) To protect biodiversity and allow ecosystems to recover**
- D) To facilitate the development of coastal infrastructure

**6. In Australia, the Commonwealth and State/Territory governments share responsibilities for environmental matters. Which level of government is primarily responsible for managing land use planning and local environmental issues within a specific municipality?**

- A) The Commonwealth Government
- B) The State/Territory Government
- C) The Local Government Council**
- D) An independent environmental watchdog

**7. The Endangered Species Act in the United States is a landmark piece of legislation. What is the primary purpose of this Act regarding species facing extinction?**

- A) To regulate the hunting of common species
- B) To provide a framework for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and their habitats**
- C) To promote the economic development of areas where endangered species live
- D) To allow for the capture and sale of endangered animals

**8. When a government body undertakes an 'Environmental Impact Assessment' (EIA) for a proposed development, what is the main purpose of this process?**

- A) To determine the profitability of the development
- B) To identify and evaluate potential environmental effects of the proposed project**
- C) To expedite the approval process for large infrastructure
- D) To assess the social media impact of the development

**9. Which international organization, under the auspices of the United Nations, is dedicated to coordinating responses to environmental problems and promoting sustainable development?**

- A) The World Trade Organization (WTO)
- B) The International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- C) The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**
- D) The World Health Organization (WHO)

**10. The concept of 'biodiversity' is crucial in environmental policy. What does 'biodiversity' refer to?**

- A) The variety of human cultures and traditions
- B) The diversity of life on Earth at all its levels, from genes to ecosystems**
- C) The range of available natural resources for human consumption
- D) The number of different types of geological formations

**11. In many democratic governments, the judiciary plays a role in environmental governance. What can a court of law do in relation to an environmental law or regulation that is being challenged?**

- A) Repeal the law immediately without review
- B) Interpret the law and rule on its legality or application**
- C) Enact new environmental laws
- D) Appoint new environmental ministers

**12. The Great Barrier Reef is a significant natural wonder in Australia. Which level of government has primary responsibility for legislating and managing its conservation and protection?**

- A) Local Councils
- B) State Government of Queensland
- C) Commonwealth Government of Australia**
- D) A joint international authority

**13. The precautionary principle is a concept often embedded in environmental law. It suggests that if there is a threat of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation. Which of the following best illustrates the application of this principle?**

- A) Continuing to use a known pollutant until its harmful effects are proven beyond doubt
- B) Implementing strict regulations on a new chemical before its long-term environmental impact is fully understood**
- C) Waiting for scientific consensus before taking any action on climate change
- D) Allowing extensive deforestation until ecological collapse is imminent

**14. Many countries have specific laws and policies aimed at regulating the disposal of waste to prevent pollution. What is a common governmental strategy to encourage the reduction of waste?**

- A) Increasing subsidies for landfill operations
- B) Implementing 'polluter pays' principles and waste levies**
- C) Encouraging the use of single-use plastics
- D) Reducing funding for recycling programs

**15. The role of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in environmental advocacy is significant. What is a typical way environmental NGOs interact with governments?**

A) By directly controlling government policy decisions

**B) By lobbying, raising public awareness, and providing expert advice**

C) By exclusively enforcing environmental laws

D) By operating as government departments themselves