

Civics and Environmental Facts

Civics & Government · Practice Test · 15 Questions

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