

Fundamentals of Environmental Science

Environmental Science · Practice Test · 25 Questions

1. Which gas makes up the largest percentage of Earth's atmosphere?

- A) Oxygen
- B) Nitrogen
- C) Carbon dioxide
- D) Argon

2. What is the primary source of energy for Earth's climate system?

- A) Geothermal heat
- B) The Moon
- C) The Sun
- D) Tidal forces

3. Which layer of the atmosphere contains the ozone layer that protects life from UV radiation?

- A) Troposphere
- B) Stratosphere
- C) Mesosphere
- D) Thermosphere

4. What is the process by which green plants convert light energy into chemical energy?

- A) Respiration
- B) Transpiration
- C) Photosynthesis
- D) Decomposition

5. Which of these is considered a non-renewable natural resource?

- A) Solar energy
- B) Wind energy
- C) Coal
- D) Moving water

6. What is the main component of Earth's hydrosphere?

- A) Glacial ice
- B) Groundwater
- C) Oceans
- D) Rivers

7. Which biome is characterized by very low precipitation and extreme temperature fluctuations?

- A) Desert
- B) Tropical rainforest
- C) Tundra
- D) Grassland

8. What term describes the variety of all living organisms on Earth?

- A) Ecosystem
- B) Biodiversity
- C) Biosphere
- D) Taxonomy

9. Which gas is primarily released during the combustion of fossil fuels and is linked to global warming?

- A) Nitrogen
- B) Oxygen
- C) Carbon dioxide
- D) Helium

10. What part of the water cycle involves water turning from liquid to vapor due to heat?

- A) Precipitation
- B) Condensation
- C) Evaporation
- D) Infiltration

11. Which soil layer contains the most organic matter and nutrients?

- A) Topsoil
- B) Bedrock
- C) Subsoil
- D) Parent material

12. What is the term for an animal that eats only plants?

- A) Carnivore
- B) Omnivore
- C) Herbivore
- D) Detritivore

13. Which natural disaster is caused by the movement of tectonic plates?

- A) Hurricane
- B) Earthquake
- C) Drought
- D) Blizzard

14. What is the primary cause of rising sea levels in recent decades?

- A) Increase in rainfall
- B) Melting of land-based ice and thermal expansion
- C) Increase in underwater volcanic activity
- D) Decrease in ocean salt content

15. Which of these organisms is a primary producer in a marine food web?

- A) Phytoplankton
- B) Shark
- C) Sea turtle
- D) Jellyfish

16. What type of rock is formed from cooling magma or lava?

- A) Sedimentary
- B) Metamorphic
- C) Igneous
- D) Limestone

17. Which element is essential for all known forms of life and is the basis of organic chemistry?

- A) Carbon
- B) Iron
- C) Gold
- D) Neon

18. What is the main role of decomposers in an ecosystem?

- A) To produce oxygen
- B) To break down dead organic matter
- C) To hunt small mammals
- D) To pollinate flowers

19. Which biome is known as the 'lungs of the planet' due to its high oxygen production?

- A) Tropical rainforest
- B) Savanna
- C) Taiga
- D) Chaparral

20. What is the measure of the acidity or alkalinity of a substance?

- A) Celsius
- B) pH scale
- C) Richter scale
- D) Decibel

21. Which renewable energy source harnesses the power of moving air?

- A) Solar
- B) Geothermal
- C) Wind
- D) Biomass

22. What is the term for the specific environment where an organism lives?

- A) Niche
- B) Habitat
- C) Community
- D) Population

23. Which greenhouse gas is produced by livestock during digestion?

- A) Methane
- B) Oxygen
- C) Nitrogen
- D) Argon

24. What is the name of the area where freshwater from rivers meets saltwater from the ocean?

- A) Estuary
- B) Tributary
- C) Aquifer
- D) Watershed

25. Which layer of the Earth is located directly beneath the crust?

- A) Inner core
- B) Outer core
- C) Mantle
- D) Lithosphere