Environmental Quiz

The group will be split into groups of 5 people maximum. They will be asked to choose team names, for keeping the score on a board and for more fun. There will be 25 multiple-choice questions, and the groups will be asked to write down their answers on a sheet of paper (just a big letter: “A”, or “B”, etc.).

This, first, helps avoid shouting confusion by having clear what is the answer of each group; and second, it makes sure all groups give their answer at the same time and thus prevent one group from simply following the answers of another. They will be given 45 seconds to discuss each question within the group and present the group’s answer. The person in charge of asking the questions will need to check the time as well. No iPhones or other internet devices allowed.

After the explanation of the game, with the help of a PowerPoint projector the quiz starts. Another person needs to help keeping the score through the game. Some brief commentary after the answer would be given on the spot, like in most quiz shows, rather than at the end; like this, the inquiries will be fresh on the participants’ minds, to avoid spending time going through the whole list again after the game is finished.

After 25 questions, if the lead is tied, you can proceed to a tie-break question. At the end, the referee will hand in the prizes to the winner group and open a quick debrief discussion where they can ask for any clarification or make final considerations they might have. (The 25 quiz questions are attached in a PowerPoint file).

**Group size:** All, in groups of 5

**Materials and human support needed:** PowerPoint projector, to allow the participants to visualize the question and the answers; marker and paper for the five groups to write down their answers; a referee + another person to keep the score on the board.

Questions (+Answers)

**Question 1:** Every year the world gathers for the COP meetings – the “Conferences of the Parties” among the signatories of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. When was this convention signed?

A. In 2007 in Bali, in order to debate the successor of Kyoto
B. In 1987 in Oslo, in the first meeting where countries adopted the concept of “Sustainable
Development
C. In 2002, in Johannesburg, as a follow-up to the Kyoto Protocol
D. In 1997 when the Kyoto Protocol was accorded
E. In 1992 during the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro

Question 2: At the 1992 Earth Summit two other major United Nations environmental conventions were signed in addition to the climate one, and they also hold their own COP meetings. Which are they?

A. The UN Convention on Biodiversity and the UN Convention on Nitrogen Pollutants
B. The UN Convention on Nitrogen Pollutants and the UN Convention on Forests
C. The UN Convention on Nitrogen Pollutants and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification
D. The UN Convention on Biodiversity and the UN Convention on Forests

E. The UN Convention on Biodiversity and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification

Question 3: In 1997 the Kyoto Protocol was launched and by now more than 190 countries have signed it. Which of these countries has not yet signed the Kyoto Protocol?

A. Argentina
B. Somalia
C. Belarus
D. United States
E. Afghanistan

Question 4: China is now the largest emitter of carbon dioxide (CO2), followed by the United States. Who comes 3rd?

A. Indonesia
B. Japan
C. Germany
D. India
E. Russia

Question 5: Kyoto came into force only in 2005, after Russia’s ratification of the protocol. Why?

A. The protocol needed to include at least one of the “Cold War powers”
B. Because Russia provided the international political support necessary for Kyoto to come into force
C. Kyoto required at least one of the top 3 greenhouse gas emitters to adopt reduction targets (and neither China or the US have reduction targets)
D. Because Russia was the 100th country to ratify the protocol, and it needed at least 100 signing countries in order to be valid
E. The protocol needed to include a total of countries responsible for at least 55% of the global emissions

Question 6: According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), what sectors are the largest emitters of greenhouse gases? (in order)

A. Transport sector, Energy generation, Agriculture
B. Industrial production, Energy generation, Deforestation
C. Industrial production, Energy generation, Transport sector
D. Energy generation, Industrial production, Transport sector
E. Energy generation, Industrial production, Deforestation

Question 7: Which of those below is NOT a fossil fuel?

A. Natural Gas
B. Kerosene
C. Coal
D. Petroleum

**E. Uranium**

**Question 8:** All these are foreseen impacts of climate change, except…

A. **Reduction of snow cover and likely impact on winter tourism in Europe**
B. Sea-level rise that may compromise human settlements on small-island nations
C. The Amazon may partly become a savannah-like vegetation
D. Up to 50% reduction of agricultural yields in Africa
E. Increased frequency of acid rain in North America

**Question 9:** The Kyoto Protocol requires developed countries to reduce their emissions by 5.2% compared to 1990 levels. The European Union has pledged to go even further and cut emissions by 20% by 2020. How much has Europe managed to achieve?

A. 2009 emissions in the EU-27 were 2.3% higher than in 1990
B. 2009 emissions in the EU-27 were the same as in 1990
C. 2009 emissions in the EU-27 were 5.6% lower than in 1990
D. 2009 emissions in the EU-27 were 10.5% lower than in 1990

**E. 2009 emissions in the EU-27 were 17.3% lower than in 1990**

**Question 10:** Despite progress in reducing emissions in Europe, performance has varied significantly among countries. The over-achievement of some have made up for the failure of others. Only one of the countries below actually met Kyoto targets, which one?

A. Switzerland
B. Italy
C. Austria

**D. Denmark**

E. United Kingdom

**Question 11:** The UK reduced its emissions by 18% compared to 1990. But many claim this is an "illusion", because European countries are simply shifting to buying what is now produced in China. Between 1992 and 2004, emissions associated to UK-consumption actually increased. Following this logic, during that period…

A. UK emissions actually increased by 14%
B. UK emissions actually increased by 10%
C. UK emissions actually increased by 5%
D. UK emissions actually increased by 2%

**E. UK emissions actually increased by 18%**

**Question 12:** What percentage of growing Chinese emissions are associated to products exported to Europe and North America?

A. 80%
B. 17%
C. 9%

**D. 45%**

E. 22%

**Question 13:** One of the main arguments of developing countries is that, even if their total greenhouse gas emissions are increasing, their emissions per capita are still much lower than those of richer countries. Pick the correct statement:

A. The average Nigerian emits 10x less than the average Italian
B. Romania is the only EU country whose emissions per capita are lower than China’s
C. Switzerland has the highest emissions per capita in Europe
D. The average Japanese emits more than the average German

**E. The average US American emits 13x more than the average Indian**

**Question 14:** There is evidence that climate change affects living organisms in the following ways.
Kick out the statement which does not belong there.

**A. Climate change can create mismatches between the flowering timing of plants and the presence of pollinators**

B. Climate change is increasing the reach of disease-carrying organisms such as mosquitoes

C. Bird migration patterns have already been affected

D. Wetland habitats will be increasingly impacted and further endanger biodiversity

E. Climate change increases ultraviolet (UV) radiation, with health impacts on humans and non-human animals

**Question 15:** Which of these forms of biodiversity are considered particularly vulnerable to temperature changes in the global climate?

**A. Small insects such as mosquitoes and flies**

B. Algae and animals which live in humid soils

C. Large herbivores and other savannah animals highly exposed to sunlight

D. Tropical fish and aquatic plants

E. Amphibians and coral reefs

**Question 16:** How high is the current rate of biodiversity loss compared to the natural rate?

A. 500x higher

B. The data aren’t that accurate, but somewhere between 10-100x higher

C. 50x higher

**D. 10x higher**

E. The data aren’t that accurate, but somewhere between 100-1000x higher

**Question 17:** Agricultural industrialization, too, has become seriously unsustainable. In the last 100 years, how much plant genetic diversity has been lost?

A. 90%

B. 10%

C. 50%

**D. 25%**

E. 75%

**Question 18:** The depletion of the ozone layer is not related to climate change, though many people mix up the two issues. What is the main cause of ozone depletion and of the hole in the ozone layer?

A. ZS3, or zelvecium sulfates, from cement manufacturing

B. N2O, or nitrous oxide, from the evaporation of nitrogen fertilizers used in intensive agriculture

C. Sulfur compounds, released into the atmosphere by the chemical industry

**D. CH3, or methane, from soil degradation**

E. CFCs, or chlorofluorocarbons, substances used in refrigerants and aerosols

**Question 19:** Where is the hole in the ozone layer?

A. It moves, depending on the moon

**B. Over the North Pole**

C. Over North America

D. Over Europe

E. Over Antarctica

**Question 20:** International climate negotiations are largely done by coalitions of like-minded countries. Which of the below is not a real negotiating coalition?

A. The Umbrella Group, an association of non-EU developed countries such as the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand

B. ALBA – Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America

C. G77, an association of 131 developing countries

D. AOSIS – Alliance of Small Island States

E. ASSAC – Alliance of Sub-Saharan African Countries
**Question 21:** In 2010 the COP 16 (the international climate negotiations) concluded with the Cancun Agreement. Which was the only one country opposing it?
A. France  
**B. Iran**  
C. China  
D. United States  
E. Bolivia

**Question 22:** In 2010 the Cancun Agreement recognized countries' willingness to make sure the global average temperature won't rise beyond…
A. 10ºC  
B. 4ºC  
C. 1ºC  
D. 1.5ºC  
E. 2ºC

**Question 23:** When was the first time international leaders met with the purpose of discussing environmental issues?
A. In 1997 at the signature of the Kyoto Protocol  
B. In 1960 at the United Nations Summit on Environmental Problems  
**C. In 1992 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development**  
D. In 1945 at the Potsdam Conference  
E. In 1972 at the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment

**Question 24:** Where is the climate COP meeting taking place this year?
A. Australia  
B. Canada  
C. Latvia  
**D. Mexico**  
E. South Africa

*Tie-break! After Brazil, which country has the largest rainforest areas on the planet?*
A. India  
**B. Papua New Guinea**  
C. Colombia  
D. Democratic Republic of Congo  
E. Indonesia

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**Outcome**

- To provide participants with factual knowledge on international political aspects of environmental issues
- To help them understand the complexity of tackling global environmental issues such as climate change and biodiversity loss

(c) The activity has been created by EYCE