

## **Environmental Sociology**

### **Possible Test Questions for Test 3 (Stuart Chapters 3, 4, and 5):**

**Four will be randomly selected for the Test  
(Be sure to answer each part of the question and  
be sure to include information from the text and not just  
the PowerPoint when answering)**

**Modified: April 4, 2025**

#### **Stuart, Chapters 3, 4 and 5 and Power Point slides:**

1. Stuart identifies two primary causes (or drivers) for our environmental problems (EPs). (a.) Describe each and explain how they contribute to our EPs. (b.) Why does Stuart consider these to be fundamental causes of our EPs? (c.) For each cause, describe several possible solutions.
2. (a) Should it be the responsibility of individuals to actively identify and minimize their environmental impacts? Why or why not? (b) List 5 very different things individuals can do to reduce their environmental impact. Should a focus on individual impacts be a primary focus for solving the environmental problems? Make an argument for (c) yes and then make an argument for (d) no. The more reasons you can give for each case the better. (e) Which argument do you agree with most? Provide your reasoning. Individuals might believe their actions are enough and not push for climate policies to address majority of emissions.
3. (a.) What does the “theory of structural change” propose? (b.) Describe at least three things that could be done to implement the structural changes suggested and for each explain how it would help. (c.) Who are opposed to structural changes for solving the environmental problems? Describe at least three groups (be sure to include neo-liberals)? For each group, describe why they are against such changes. (d) Do you think structural change will be used to solve our environmental problems? Explain.
4. When considering our environmental problems, (a) What is the difference between practicing “green consumption” and reducing overall consumption? (b) Make an argument for and against implementing green consumption and (c) make an argument for and against implementing an overall reduction in consumption. (d) Which do you believe is more likely to happen. Explain (why one and not the other)?

5. When considering environmental issues: (a) Define individual reflexivity and precautionary consumption. (b) How are they related and how are they different? (c) Is precautionary consumption by individuals a good approach to addressing our environmental problems? Provide reasons for and against implementing precautionary consumption. (d) How do the U.S. and European countries differ with regard to precautionary consumption?
6. (a) What is “ecological modernization (EM)?” (b) What is the argument for it? (c) Provide arguments against it (at least 4)? (d) How is technology related to the theory? (e) Describe current technologies and energy sources that could assist or support EM and several technologies that could perhaps be developed in the future to support EM.
7. (a) How is ecological modernization (EM) different from precautionary consumption (PC)—in your explanation be sure to define each? (b) What are your thoughts about EM? Do you think it accurately describes what our society should do (why or why not)? (c) What are your thoughts about PC? Do you think it accurately describes what our society should do (why or why not)? (d) Stuart discusses risk. How is each related to risk, be sure to mention what the risk is. (e) Does EM have a chance of being put into practice? Why or why not? (f) Does PC have a chance of being put into practice? Why or Why not (g) Which do you support EM or PC and why? Explain.
8. (a) Why do some propose that society should shorten the number of hours people typically work? (b) Describe at least 3 ways this could be accomplished. (c) How might it be enforced? (d) Who is in favor of a shorter work week? (e) What are arguments against shortening the work week? (f) What else beyond the number of hours worked could be done to accomplish the purpose of shortening the work week—describe at least three.
9. (a) What are the major characteristics of a social movement? (b) How might the double movement be applied when considering the environment? In terms of decisions that are within the control of climate movement organizations, Stuart lists four characteristics that are most likely to make the climate movement organizations successful. (c) Describe at least three of these.
10. Stuart discusses several challenges to the environmental movement and social change including: (a) leaders of nations, (b) anti-reflexivity forces, (c) cultural trauma, (d) cultural defeatism, and (e) neo-liberal ideology. Explain how each of these present a challenge. (f) What are similarities and differences between the two environmental groups: extinction rebellion and sunrise movement?

11. (a) Describe three major factors that inhibit individuals from doing things to help reduce environmental problems (EPs). (b) Provide an example of each. (c) Provide at least 3 reasons why environmentalists do NOT want to rely on individual behaviors to solve EPs?
12. (a.) What do we mean by the gross domestic product (GDP) and the Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI)? (b) How are they similar? (c) How are they different? (d) How is GDP related to environmental concerns? Is it considered a plus or minus when trying to solve environmental problems? Explain. (e) How is GPI related to environmental concerns? Is it considered a plus or minus when trying to solve environmental problems? Explain.