

Question 2: Analyze an Environmental Problem and Propose a Solution

10 points

A	Identify the sea surface condition for the eastern equatorial area of the Pacific Ocean illustrated in Figure 1. Acceptable identification point: (Ocean water) cooler than average	Point 01
B	Based on the information in Figure 1, identify the climate phenomenon associated with the sea surface conditions shown in the equatorial area of the Pacific Ocean. Acceptable identification point: La Niña	Point 02
C	Based on the information in Figure 2, describe a difference in climate patterns between the regions A and B. Examples of acceptable responses may include the following: - Region A has an increased chance of precipitation, while Region B has a decreased chance of precipitation. - Region A will be wetter, while Region B will be drier.	Point 03
D	Describe one reason why there is an increased risk of flooding in urban areas during extended periods of precipitation. Examples of acceptable responses may include the following: - Impervious/paved surfaces increase runoff/reduce infiltration/reduce absorption. - Parking lots/roads/buildings/sidewalks increase runoff/reduce infiltration/reduce absorption. - There is less vegetation and, therefore, less infiltration/absorption.	Point 04
E	Propose a realistic solution a city could implement to decrease the risk of flooding in urban areas. Examples of acceptable responses may include the following: - Use permeable pavement - Plant vegetation/establish parks/create rain gardens/build green roofs - Install retention ponds/stormwater basins	Point 05

- F** **Justify** the solution proposed in part E by providing an additional advantage other than a reduction in the risk of flooding. **Point 06**

Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:

Solution from part E	Justification of solution with additional advantages
Use permeable pavement	- Increased recharge of nearby aquifers/groundwater - Decreased pollution in runoff
Plant vegetation/establish parks/create rain gardens/build green roofs	- Vegetation absorbs pollutants - Vegetation stores carbon dioxide/produces oxygen - Decreased erosion - Increased/restored habitat for wildlife - Increased biodiversity - Helps reduce urban heat island effect - Aesthetic enjoyment/improved quality of life - Creates jobs (in landscaping/park maintenance)
Install retention ponds/stormwater basins	- Decreased pollution in runoff - Increased habitat/biodiversity

- G** **Describe** one difference between the climate of a temperate seasonal forest and that of a savanna. **Point 07**

Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:

- Temperate seasonal forests have a cooler climate than a savanna.
- Temperate seasonal forests have a stronger/colder winter than a savanna.
- Temperate seasonal forests have four distinct seasons while savannas do not.
- Temperate seasonal forests receive more annual precipitation than savannas.
- Temperate forests receive precipitation throughout the year while savannas have a rainy season/dry season.

- H** **Identify** the ecological process that occurs following a forest fire that leaves the soil intact. **Point 08**
- Acceptable identification point:
- Secondary succession

I	Describe one way burning forests contribute to atmospheric pollution.	Point 09
	Acceptable description point:	
	Burning of trees releases CO₂/CO/NO_x/particulate matter/VOCs.	
J	Describe one sustainable forestry practice that could be used to reduce the occurrence or severity of forest fires.	Point 10
	Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:	
	- Prescribed burns can remove excess fuel/dead leaves/underbrush. - Brush removal can remove excess fuel/dead leaves/underbrush. - Selective cutting can create a fire break. - In agroforestry, ground crops that might otherwise be fuel can be harvested/removed.	

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A	Based on the information in Figure 1, identify the type of plate boundary that runs beneath Serengeti National Park.	Point 01
	Acceptable identification point:	
	Divergent (boundary)	
B	Based on the information provided, identify the dominant biome within the Serengeti.	Point 02
	Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:	
	- Savanna - Tropical grassland	
C	Wildebeest give birth to their young when new grasses are growing. Based on the information in Figure 2, identify the location in the Serengeti where wildebeest are most likely to give birth.	Point 03
	Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:	
	- Grumeti Game Reserve - The west/northwestern side/edge (of Serengeti National Park)	
D	Explain why resource partitioning allows for the coexistence of the wildebeest and the gazelle in the Serengeti.	Point 04
	Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:	
	(Resource partitioning) reduces the (negative) impact of competition for (limited) resources. (Resource partitioning) allows species to use (limited) resources in different ways/places/at different times.	
E	Describe one way the proposed highway shown in Figure 2 could negatively affect the wildebeest population in the Serengeti.	Point 05
	Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:	
	- Building the highway would fragment/destroy habitat/food/resources. - The highway could prevent/reduce/disturb migration. - Wildebeest could be hit/killed by vehicles. - Noise pollution could cause stress/change migratory routes.	

F **Propose** a solution to the negative effect created by the planned highway described in part E. **Point 06**

Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:

Problem in part E	Realistic Potential Solution
Building the highway would fragment/destroy habitat/food/resources.	- Construct a habitat corridor over/under the highway - Construct the highway over/above the habitat - Relocate the highway north/outside of the migratory path - Expand the national park/create additional protected habitat
The highway could prevent/reduce/disturb migration.	- Relocate the highway north/outside of the migratory path - Construct a habitat corridor over/under the highway
Wildebeest could be hit/killed by vehicles.	
Noise pollution could cause stress/change migratory routes.	- Install a sound barrier to mitigate noise pollution - Relocate the highway north/outside of the migratory path

G **Describe** a characteristic of an invasive species, such as the spotted knapweed, that allows them to outcompete native species. **Point 07**

Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:

- They have many offspring/reproduce quickly/mature early/invest minimal energy in each offspring (tend to be r-selected).
- They can feed on/use many different types of resources.
- They can survive in conditions outside their normal habitat/have a wide range of tolerance (tend to be generalists).

H **Justify** the use of crop rotation as an environmental solution by providing an additional advantage, other than controlling pest populations. **Point 08**

Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:

- Improved soil fertility/soil structure/soil quality
- Increased nutrient cycling/reduction in fertilizer use
- Reduced soil erosion
- Increased food security/crop yield
- Increased biological activity (in the soil)

I **Describe** an environmental problem associated with controlling pest populations with large amounts of pesticide. **Point 09**

Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:

- Pesticides can harm/kill nontarget species.
- Pests can develop resistance to the pesticide.

J **Propose** a solution to controlling pests, other than pesticides or crop rotation. **Point 10**

Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:

- Use biocontrol/intercropping/natural predators
- Trap insects/use mechanical controls to eliminate the pests
- Use genetically modified crops that are pest resistant

Question 3: Analyze an Environmental Problem and Propose a Solution Doing Calculations

10 points

- (a) **Identify** a typical type of plant that would be used in a desert-tolerant landscaping. **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- Cactus/cacti
- Succulent plants
- Drought-tolerant plants

- (b) **Justify** the removal of landscaping and lawns that use grasses not native to the local area by describing an additional advantage, other than reducing the amount of water needed for irrigation. **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- Native desert plants support habitat/provide food for local/native wildlife.
- Less mowing leads to decreased yard maintenance time/costs.
- Desert tolerant plants need less fertilizer/pesticide.
- Creates jobs for landscapers to remove/replace turf.
- Decreased use of gas-powered yard tools reduces air pollution/noise pollution/gasoline consumption.

- (c) **Describe** how a prescribed burn would reduce the severity and spread of forest fires. **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- Prescribed burns/they remove undergrowth, decreasing fuel/flammable material.
- Prescribed burns/they thin forests/create a fire break, reducing the spread of fires.

- (d) **Describe** a disadvantage of a prescribed burn in a forested ecosystem. **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- Reduces habitat for wildlife/can harm or displace animals.
- Releases carbon dioxide, which contributes to climate change.
- Releases particulates/air pollutants, which worsens air quality.
- Runoff following a prescribed burn can degrade water quality.
- Reduces competition, which helps invasive species spread/expand.

- (e) **Calculate** the number of million acre-feet (maf) of water currently in Lake Powell. **Show** your work. **1 point**

One point for the correct setup to calculate number of million acre-feet (maf) of water currently in the lake:

Accept one of the following:

- $25.16 \text{ maf} \times 36\%$
- 25.16×0.36

One point for the correct calculation of the number of million acre-feet (maf) of water currently in the lake: **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- 9.0576
- 9.058
- 9.06
- 9.1

Total for part (e) 2 points

- (f) The watershed of the Upper Colorado River contributes an average of 9.60 maf of water to Lake Powell annually. The melted mountain snow found in the watershed contributes 50% of the average river flow into Lake Powell. In 2021, the river flow was 36% of the annual average. Assuming that all resources to that flow contributed with the same proportions as in prior years, **calculate** the amount of water (in million acre-feet) that was contributed by the melted mountain snow in 2021. **Show** your work. **1 point**

One point for the correct setup to calculate amount of water in million acre-feet that was contributed by the melted mountain snow:

Accept one of the following:

- $9.60 \text{ maf} \times 36\% \times 50\%$
- $9.60 \text{ maf} \times 0.36 \times 0.5$
- $9.60 \times 0.36 \times 0.5$

One point for the correct calculation of the amount of water in million acre-feet: **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- 1.728
- 1.73
- 1.7

Total for part (f) 2 points

- (g) The average household in the United States consumes 5.0×10^4 gallons of water in a year. **Calculate** the number of households that could be supported for one year by the average flow of 9.60 maf of water into Lake Powell. **Show** your work. **1 point**

One point for the correct setup to calculate the number of households that could be supported for one year by the average watershed flow:

Accept one of the following:

- $9.60 \text{ maf} \times \frac{3.26 \times 10^{11} \text{ gallons}}{1 \text{ maf}} \times \frac{1 \text{ household}}{5.0 \times 10^4 \text{ gallons}}$
- $9.60 \text{ maf} \times \frac{3.26 \times 10^{11} \text{ gallons}}{5.0 \times 10^4 \text{ gallons}}$
- $9.60 \times \frac{3.26 \times 10^{11}}{5.0 \times 10^4}$

One point for the correct calculation of the number of households: **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- 62,592,000
- 6.2592×10^7

Total for part (g) 2 points

Total for question 3 10 points

Question 1: Design an Investigation 10 points

- (a) Based on the data in the graph, **identify** the average number of species found in technically restored piles 16–25 years after restoration started. **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- 8
- 9

- (b) Based on the data in the graph, **describe** the relationship between the average number of species and age of the spontaneous restoration piles. **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- The number of species increases with age of piles.
- The average number of species increases as the years since restoration increase.
- There is a direct/positive relationship/correlation between the two variables.

- (c) Using the data in the graph, **make a claim** that supports or refutes the hypothesis that the number of animal species in the spontaneously restored piles would be higher than the number of animal species in the technically restored piles. **1 point**

- The spontaneously restored areas support more plant species, which provides habitat, food, and/or shelter for animal species.

- (d) **Describe** a characteristic of a plant species that would have been present in the spontaneous restoration piles from years 1 to 5. **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- A description of a characteristic of pioneer or generalist species such as:
 - Able to grow with little/poor soil
 - Able to grow in soil with low organic matter/low nutrients
 - Able to grow in full sunlight
 - Able to colonize an area quickly
 - Able to grow in a wide range of habitats

- (e) **Explain** how the return of plant life would have been altered in the spontaneous piles if the mining had taken place in the tundra rather than in temperate forests. **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- It would be slower because it is colder/growing season is shorter/there is less rain.
- It would include plants that are native to the tundra not the temperate forests.
- It would reflect the lower species diversity found in the tundra.

(f) Identify the scientific question for the investigation. **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- Does the presence of vegetation affect the amount/appearance of runoff?
- Does the presence of soil covering affect the amount/appearance of runoff?
- Does the presence of different materials affect the amount/appearance of runoff?

(g) Identify a dependent variable in the experiment. **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- Water collected
- Runoff volume
- Water appearance

(h) Explain how the results of the experiment would likely have been altered if the soil had contained a higher percentage of sand, which has the largest particle size of the components of loam. **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- The amount/volume of water collected/runoff would decrease because more water would infiltrate into the soil.
- The water collected could be clearer as the sand particles settle faster.

(i) Describe one ecological impact that could result from the drainage from mine waste into nearby waterways. **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- Acidic/low pH runoff could be outside the range of tolerance of some species.
- Acidic/low pH runoff could lead to disease/death of some species.
- Heavy metals in runoff can accumulate/biomagnify in wildlife leading to disease/death.
- Soils may run off into nearby waterways and could increase turbidity/sedimentation outside the range of tolerance of some species.
- Soils may run off into nearby waterways and could increase turbidity/sedimentation leading to disease/death.

(j) Describe one strategy to reduce the drainage from mine waste into waterways downstream from mines. **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- Vegetation can be planted, reducing sediments/heavy metals flowing into streams.
- Mine waste can be covered with soil/plastic/concrete.
- Mine waste can be covered with lime or other alkaline substances.
- Mine waste can be removed to another location that cannot run off into waterways.
- Water can be diverted to avoid contact with mining waste.
- Contaminated water can be treated to reduce acidity.
- Contaminated water can be treated to remove heavy metals.
- Mine waste can be disposed underwater.
- Mine waste drainage can be diverted into holding basins.

Total for question 1 10 points

Question 2: Analyze an Environmental Problem and Propose a Solution**10 points****(a) (i) Identify** the latitudinal range with the greatest amphibian species richness. **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- Between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn
- The range between 30 degrees N and 30 degrees S latitude
- The range between 10 degrees N and 15 degrees S latitude

(ii) Identify what biome this range most likely represents. **1 point**

- Tropical Rainforest

(iii) Describe one reason amphibian species richness would tend to be highest in this region. **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- More rainfall/warm temperatures year-round are the preferred conditions for amphibians.
- Greater biodiversity/higher NPP provides more habitat/food sources/niches.

Total for part (a) 3 points**(b)** There are many environmental threats facing amphibians today, such as deforestation. **1 point****Describe** one possible anthropogenic reason for deforestation.

- Human demand for agriculture/housing/firewood/forest products (medicine/food/lumber).

(c) (i) Explain how the species richness of an ecosystem influences its response to environmental stressors. **1 point**

- An ecosystem with greater species richness/diversity is more resilient/resistant to environment stressors because some species will survive helping to restore/stabilize the ecosystem.

(ii) Explain why amphibian biodiversity is declining globally, other than from deforestation. **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- Increasing water pollution including:
 - Pollution from pharmaceuticals that cause reproductive harm/decrease reproductive success.
 - Pesticide pollution that is absorbed via the skin and is toxic to amphibians leading to death.
 - Endocrine disruptors (such as atrazine) can alter reproductive development leading to decreased number of successful offspring.
- Pesticide use reduces food sources for amphibians (insects), leading to decreasing population size.
- Microclimatic changes from overall global climate change (e.g., warmer, drier conditions in previously cool, moist areas, loss of wetlands) decreases available habitat leading to a decline in population size.
- Illegal amphibian trafficking removes species from an area leading to a decline in population sizes.
- Introduction of invasive species that compete for niche space leading to a decline in population sizes.
- Habitat fragmentation from human activity would limit range/reduce the ability to access resources, decreasing survival.
- Fungal infections (such as Chytrid) cause their skin to dry out, and they cannot breathe.

Total for part (c) 2 points**(d) (i) Identify** one specific piece of legislation that has been designed to protect species threatened by extinction. **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- Endangered Species Act (ESA)
- Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES)
- Lacey Act

- (ii) **Explain** how the requirements of the legislation identified in part (d)(i) specifically protect species threatened by extinction. **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

Legislation identified in (d)(i)	Explanation of requirements that specifically protect species threatened by extinction
Endangered Species Act (ESA)	- Lists endangered/threatened plant and animal species and prevents them from being killed or harmed. - Designates/protects critical habitat to promote survival and recovery of listed species. - Creates plans to restore populations to healthy sizes. - Identifies species that are threatened before they become endangered to provide protections.
Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES)	A global agreement that protects endangered/threatened plants and animals (including goods such as ivory, shark fins, or rhinoceros' horns) by banning/regulating the trade of these species.
Lacey Act	Prohibits the trade of wildlife, fish, and plants that have been illegally taken, possessed, transported, or sold.

Total for part (d) 2 points

- (e) (i) **Propose** a viable solution that will result in the protection of the endemic frog species while still allowing for maximum profit of the property development. **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- Move/transplant the frog populations to an adjacent undeveloped area prior to development.
- A portion of the wetland can be designated as a park/preserve.
- Wildlife corridors (land/bridges) can be built/created on a portion of the wetlands.
- Restrict development within a minimum setback away from the wetland.
- Project developers can group buildings together/can build up, not out.

- (ii) **Justify** the solution proposed in (e)(i) by describing a potential advantage of the plan, other than frog protection. **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

Solution proposed in (e)(i)	Justification of how solutions offer potential advantages, other than frog protection
Move/transplant frogs	- Developers will only have a one-time disruption during the removal but will not have to deal with continued disruptions (such as increasing human population, increasing use of fertilizer/pesticides). - Developer will have the maximum amount of land available.
Designate as a park/preserve	- By protecting areas, animal species will have more food and space availability increasing survival rates. - Potential educational/environmental draw of living near a park/preserve may allow the developer to charge higher rents for the apartments. - There is aesthetic value of the wetland and its species for the people that live there. - The preserved wetland area will help prevent flooding.
Use of wildlife corridors	- By establishing corridors, the other species will also not be as greatly affected by multiple habitat fragments. - The animal species can continue to move back and forth for food, shelter, and reproduction by way of the habitat corridors.
Setback	- By establishing setbacks, a buffer zone will be created between the development and the wetland area, filtering runoff into the wetland. - A buffer zone will add privacy for residents between the two developments.
Project development	By developing the apartments in groups/clusters and leaving preserved wetlands, the species will not be as affected by multiple habitat fragments.

Total for part (e) 2 points

Total for question 2 10 points