

Question 2: Analyze an Environmental Problem and Propose a Solution **10 points**

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- (a) Based on the data in the graphs, **identify** the amount of land required to produce 1 kilogram of chicken protein. **1 point**
- 50 m²
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- (b) Based on the information provided, **identify** the type of survivorship curve exhibited by the darkling beetle. **1 point**
- Type III
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- (c) **Explain** why the reproductive strategy of the darkling beetle is an advantage for using mealworms as an alternative protein source for the rapidly growing human population. **1 point**
- Accept one of the following:
- Darkling beetles reproduce quickly, which allows for a large amount of protein to be produced in a short period of time.
 - Darkling beetles have many offspring, which allows for a large amount of protein to be produced in a short period of time.
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- (d) Based on the data in the graphs, **explain** whether producing 1 kilogram of chicken protein or 1 kilogram of pork protein would cause less environmental damage. **1 point**
- Accept one of the following:
- Chicken production has a lower global warming potential than pork production, so it would cause less environmental damage because chicken production releases less greenhouse gas.
 - Chicken production has a lower land use than pork production, so it would cause less environmental damage because there would be less deforestation/habitat destruction/soil erosion/fossil fuel use.
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- (e) Based on the data in the graphs, **explain** why the production of 1 kilogram of beef protein has a different impact on global warming than the production of 1 kilogram of protein from any of the other animals studied would have. **1 point**
- Accept one of the following:
- Beef has a larger impact because methane has a high global warming potential.
 - Beef has a larger impact because methane is a greenhouse gas.
 - Beef requires more land use, which results in loss of forests/habitat/grasslands leading to release of CO₂/reduction in carbon storage.
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(f)	Describe how water quality can be altered by cattle grazing that occurs near a stream or river.	1 point
	Accept one of the following:	
	• Cattle cause erosion, which increases sedimentation/turbidity in water. • Cattle feces can add nutrients/nitrogen/phosphorus to waterways. • Cattle feces may contaminate waterways with bacteria.	
(g)	Propose a solution to reduce the negative impacts on waterways that result from cattle grazing, while still allowing cattle to graze.	1 point
	Accept one of the following:	
	• Practice rotational grazing/alternate grazing parcels. • Eat a diet with less meat/beef. • Fence/barricade the riparian zone. • Provide other water sources for the cattle.	
(h)	Crop production can cause soil erosion. Describe a sustainable agricultural practice used to reduce soil erosion.	1 point
	Accept one of the following:	
	• Switch crops to perennial plants. • Plant crops on terraces. • Implement contour plowing/farming. • Use no-till farming/cover crops.	

- (i) **Justify** the use of the sustainable practice described in part (h) by describing an additional advantage, other than the reduction of soil erosion. **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

Solution proposed in (h)	Justification of solution with additional advantage other than the reduction of soil erosion
Switch to perennial plants	- Reduces the use of fossil fuels. - Reduces the cost of farming. - Increases/maintains carbon storage in soils. - Preserves habitats for organisms in soils.
Plant crops on terraces	- Allows areas to be farmed that are otherwise too steep. - Sediments and other contaminants settle out behind the terrace ridge reducing the amount of soil that runs off. - Increases groundwater absorption.
Implement contour plowing/farming	- Allows areas to be farmed that are otherwise too steep. - Increases groundwater absorption.
Use no-till farming/cover crops	- Reduces the use of fossil fuels. - Reduces the cost of farming. - Increases/maintains carbon storage in soils. - Preserves habitats for organisms in soils. - Cover crops can be used as green manure.

- (j) Crop production around the world is affected by climate change. **Describe** how crop production could be negatively affected by climate change. **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- Crop production/yields could decrease because of:
 - Increased drought
 - Increased flooding
 - Increased insect infestation from warmer temperatures
 - Increased temperature
 - Changes in seasonal rain patterns (or temperatures)
 - Expansion of geographic range of invasive pests/species
 - Climate may be outside range of tolerance of crops

Total for question 2 10 points

Question 2: Analyze an Environmental Problem and Propose a Solution 10 points

(a) Based on the data in the graph, **identify** the year with the highest percentage of forest. 1 point

- 1700

(b) Based on the data in the graph, **describe** the relationship between the land use changes in the wild grasslands and grazing from 1700 to 1950. 1 point

Accept one of the following:

- The percentage/amount of wild grasslands has decreased, and the percentage/amount of grazing (land) has increased.
- The two variables have an inverse relationship.

(c) **Identify** an environmental problem associated with overgrazing by livestock. 1 point

Accept one of the following:

- Loss of vegetation
- Soil erosion
- Desertification
- Sedimentation/turbidity in waterways
- Soil compaction

(d) A student hypothesized that the change in the percentage of forest from 1700 to 2018 has decreased atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations. **Explain** whether the hypothesis is supported or refuted based on the data in the graph. 1 point

- The hypothesis is refuted/disproved/not supported. The percentage of forest has decreased, so the amount of photosynthesis/carbon sequestration has decreased.

(e) **Describe** a water-related environmental problem associated with urbanization. 1 point

Accept one of the following:

- Increased runoff/flooding because urban areas have more impermeable surfaces.
- Decreased groundwater/saltwater intrusion because urban areas have many people/groundwater is overused.
- Increased water pollution because precipitation/runoff can carry contaminants/pollutants/waste.
- Destruction of aquatic habitats from increased development/land use changes.

- (f) **Describe** a potential response to mitigate the environmental problem identified in part (e). **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

Environmental problem identified in part (e)	Potential response to mitigate environmental problem
Increased runoff/flooding	• Use permeable road/parking lot materials. • Set aside green spaces/parks/conservation areas. • Construct green roofs/rain gardens/storm water retention ponds/basins.
Decreased groundwater/saltwater intrusion	• Use permeable road/parking lot materials. • Establish groundwater conservation/management plans. • Set aside green spaces/parks/conservation areas in recharge zones. • Construct green roofs/rain gardens/storm water retention ponds/basins.
Increased water pollution	• Encourage walking/biking or other methods of transportation. • Reduce use of home pesticides/fertilizers. • Reduce use of road salts/de-icing chemicals • Pick up trash and litter along waterways. • Dispose of toxic chemicals (for example, used oil and household cleaners).
Destruction of aquatic habitats from increased development/land use changes	• Create conservation areas/preserves/wetlands to protect aquatic habitats. • Restore degraded aquatic habitats.

- (g) **Explain** why there are fewer bobcats present on the farmland now compared to several decades ago. **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- Loss of forest habitat has led to a decrease in resources/food/shelter/ mates/migration.
- Trapping/hunting has reduced the bobcat population.

(h) **Describe** a disadvantage of introducing only a small population of bobcats. **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- Small populations have lower genetic diversity.
- Genetic bottlenecks can lead to inbreeding/passing on negative traits.
- Small populations are more vulnerable to diseases/disturbances like wildfire.
- Small populations do not control small mammals/pests as well as large populations.
- Small populations are less likely to survive.

(i) **Propose** a solution to improve the chances that the bobcat reintroductions will be successful in reestablishing wild populations. **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- Increase connectivity/build habitat corridors (so bobcats can safely mate/find food/build dens).
- Restore/reforest/preserve areas of bobcat habitat.

(j) **Justify** the solution proposed in part (i) by describing an additional advantage, other than reestablishing the bobcat population near the farms. **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

Solution proposed in part (i)	Justification of the proposed solution by stating an advantage
Increase connectivity/build habitat corridors (so that bobcats can safely mate/find food/build dens)	• Habitat corridors can be used by other species. • Habitat corridors would increase biodiversity/population of other species. • Habitat corridors can attract other species that might be beneficial for farmers (such as predators of pests and/or pollinator species). • Habitat corridors could help decrease road kills/the frequency of car accidents with wildlife.
Restore/reforest/preserve areas of bobcat habitat	• Restored habitat can be used by other species. • Restoration/reforestation/preservation could increase diversity/improve air quality/improve water quality. • An increase in the number of trees will improve aesthetic value/enhance tourism/reduce erosion/serve as a carbon sink.

Total for question 2 10 points

Question 3: Analyze an Environmental Problem and Propose a Solution Doing Calculations**10 points**

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- (a) **Describe** one environmental problem associated with the release of methane into the atmosphere. **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- It traps heat effectively leading to climate change/global warming.
- The greenhouse effect is enhanced, increasing global temperatures/warming.
- It is a greenhouse gas, which leads to climate change/global warming.
- It is a greenhouse gas, which leads to melting ice/rising sea levels.

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- (b) **Describe** one factor that could affect the decomposition of the solid waste in a landfill. **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- The amount of/percentage of organic material in the solid waste.
- The amount of/percentage of non-degradable material in the solid waste.
- Conditions of the landfill (such as concentration of oxygen, population of microbes/decomposers, temperature, moisture).
- Environmental conditions of the area (such as temperature, amount of rainfall, climate, weather, etc.).

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- (c) **Propose** a solution to decrease the amount of methane released from landfills into the atmosphere. **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- Incinerate waste.
 - Compost waste.
 - Recycle/reuse non-synthetic organic waste (paper, textiles).
 - Install/Use methane collection systems.
 - Burn off/Combust the methane coming from the landfill.
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- (d) **Justify** the solution proposed in part (c) by describing an additional advantage, other than decreasing the amount of methane released from landfills. **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

Solution proposed in part (c)	Justification of solution with additional advantage
Incinerate waste.	• Extends the lifetime of the landfill. • Reduces the amount of waste going to the landfill. • Can be used to generate electricity/heat. • Can generate income. • Reduces land area needed for landfills.
Compost waste.	• Extends the lifetime of the landfill. • Produces effective, inexpensive fertilizer. • Reduces land area needed for landfills.
Recycle/Reuse non-synthetic organic waste (paper, textiles, etc.).	• Reduces land needed for landfills. • Reduces energy/resources needed for new products. • Reduces trees cut for new paper.
Install/Use methane collection systems. Burn off/Combust the methane coming from the landfill.	• Can be used to generate electricity. • Can be used to heat buildings. • Can generate income. • Can be used as fuel. • Reduces the need for other energy sources.

- (e) The average cow releases 150 liters of methane per day. **Calculate** the amount of methane that was released by all beef cattle raised in the United States in one year. **Show** your work. **1 point**

One point for the correct setup to calculate the amount of methane released in one year:

Accept one of the following:

- $\frac{150 \text{ L methane per day}}{\text{cow}} \times 31,200,000 \text{ cows (cattle)} \times \frac{365 \text{ days}}{1 \text{ year}}$
- $31,200,000 \times \frac{150 \text{ L}}{\text{cow}} \times 365 \text{ days}$
- $150 \times 31,200,000 \times 365$

One point for the correct calculation of the amount of methane released in one year: **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- 1,708,200,000,000 L
- $1.7 \times 10^{12} \text{ L}$

Total for part (e) 2 points

- (f) A typical beef cow needs 11.8 kilograms of food per day and each hectare of cattle pasture produces 26.2 kilograms of grasses. **Calculate** the number of hectares of pasture that would be needed to support all beef cattle raised in the United States for one day. **Show** your work. **1 point**

One point for the correct setup to calculate the number of hectares of pasture to support cattle:

Accept one of the following:

- $\frac{11.8 \text{ kg}}{\text{cow}} \times \frac{1 \text{ ha}}{26.2 \text{ kg}} \times 31,200,000 \text{ cows (cattle)}$
- $31,200,000 \times \frac{11.8 \text{ kg}}{26.2 \text{ kg}}$
- $\frac{11.8}{26.2} \times 31,200,000$

One point for the correct calculation of the number of hectares of pasture to support cattle: **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- 14,051,908
- 1.4×10^7
- 14.1 million

Total for part (f) 2 points

- (g) The average American consumes 2,250 kilocalories of food per day. Beef cattle can produce 2.7 million kilocalories per hectare of land. Corn can produce 30.4 million kilocalories per hectare of land. **Calculate** how many more American people could be fed if 150 hectares of land was used to grow corn instead of raising beef cattle. **Show** your work. **1 point**

One point for the correct setup to calculate the change in the number of people:

Accept one of the following:

- $\frac{(30,400,000 \text{ kcal} - 2,700,000 \text{ kcal})}{1 \text{ ha}} \times \frac{1 \text{ person}}{2,250 \text{ kcal}} \times 150 \text{ ha}$
- $(30,400,000 - 2,700,000) \times \frac{1 \text{ person}}{2,250 \text{ kcal}} \times 150$
- $\left(\frac{30,400,000}{2,250} \times 150 \right) - \left(\frac{2,700,000}{2,250} \times 150 \right)$
- $\frac{(30,400,000 - 2,700,000)}{2,250} \times 150$

One point for the correct calculation of the change in the number of people: **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- 1,846,667
- 1.8×10^6

Total for part (g) 2 points

Total for question 3 10 points

Question 1: Design an Investigation**10 points**

- (a) (i) **Identify** the land use that covers the least amount of area in the Mississippi River watershed, based on the diagram. **1 point**

- Urban

- (ii) **Describe** one way that land use practice at location X in the diagram could contribute to the dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico. **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- Fertilizer used on croplands is washed into the streams and rivers in the watershed and feeds the growth of algae once it reaches the Gulf.
- Concentrated animal feeding operations generate large amounts of organic wastes that can move into streams and rivers, feeding the growth of algae once it reaches the Gulf.
- Treated or untreated (overflows) sewage released from wastewater treatment plants feeds the growth of algae once it reaches the Gulf.

- (iii) **Describe** one way that urban areas in the Mississippi River watershed could contribute to the dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico. **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- Wastewater treatment facilities in urban areas may release nutrients in treated wastewater and/or overflows, with this effluent flowing into the Gulf.
- Impervious surfaces in urban areas can increase the movement/runoff of lawn fertilizers or high-phosphate detergents that move onto pavement areas and flow into the Gulf.

Total for part (a) 3 points

- (b) (i) **Describe** how a dead zone affects marine organisms living in the Gulf of Mexico. **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- Many organisms are forced to migrate or will die as a result of low dissolved oxygen levels in the water.
- Many organisms are forced to migrate or will die as a result of algal blooms that block sunlight from reaching underwater plants (submerged aquatic vegetation).

- (ii) **Describe** one economic effect on communities along the Gulf of Mexico that can result from the presence of the dead zone. **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- Decreased fish catch/decreased income for fishing industry
- Decreased tourism/lower tourism revenues
- Increased fuel costs for fishing vessels that need to travel farther to locate fish, therefore there will be a decrease in income/profits for fishing industry
- Increased costs for consumers as a result of a limited supply of fish

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- (iii) **Describe** one factor that causes the area of the dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico to increase during the summer months. **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- Increased runoff of nitrates/phosphates/potassium from fertilizer used during the growing season leads to increased algal growth in the summer months.
- Increased precipitation/snowmelt/water volume carries more fertilizer runoff from urban or agricultural areas leading to increased algal growth.
- Higher water temperatures in the summer decrease the concentration of dissolved oxygen as warm water does not hold as much dissolved oxygen as cold water.
- Increased runoff of fertilizer or high-phosphate detergents used in urban areas leads to increased algal growth in the summer months.

Total for part (b) 3 points

- (c) (i) **Identify** a testable hypothesis for the study. **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- If riparian buffers are present in agricultural areas, then the level of nitrates/phosphates/nutrients downstream will be lower than areas without riparian buffers.
- If riparian buffers are present in agricultural areas, then the level of nitrates/phosphates/nutrients downstream will be higher than areas without riparian buffers.
- If riparian buffers are present in agricultural areas, then the level of nitrates/phosphates/nutrients downstream will remain the same in areas with and without riparian buffers.

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- (ii) **Describe** a control that the researchers could use in the study. **1 point**

- Stream sites that are 100 meters downstream from areas without riparian buffer zones

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- (iii) **Identify** one water quality test, other than measuring nitrates or phosphates, that the researchers could use to evaluate how riparian vegetation buffers affect water quality. **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- Turbidity
 - Total suspended solids (TSS)
 - Dissolved oxygen
 - Water temperature
 - Fecal coliform
 - Conductivity
 - pH
 - Biological oxygen demand (BOD)
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- (iv) During the investigation, researchers discovered that some of the land next to one of the streams with a riparian vegetation buffer is going to be converted from cornfields into a large-scale concentrated animal feeding operation. **Explain** one way that this change in land use could alter the results of the study. **1 point**

Accept one of the following:

- There would be a decline in water quality from increased nutrients/increased coliform bacteria in the runoff because there is animal waste in the areas near concentrated animal feeding operations that are high in nutrients/coliform bacteria.
- There would be a decline in water quality from increased turbidity/increased total suspended solids in the streams near the concentrated animal feeding operations because particles from animal wastes enter the stream/there is increased disruption of the stream bed from animals in the water.
- There would be a decline in water quality from increased water temperature because the increased turbidity/suspended solids in streams near the concentrated animal feeding operations absorb sunlight/heat.
- There would be a decline in water quality from increased conductivity because there is increased water temperature/increase dissolved salts in streams near concentrated animal feeding operations.
- There would be a decline in water quality from antibiotics/veterinary drugs in runoff near the concentrated animal feeding operations because antibiotics/drugs are used in livestock operations but not to grow crops.

Total for part (c) 4 points
Total for question 1 10 points
