

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Geopolitical Scaffolding: Your 12th Grade Human-Environment Quiz

Analyze if modern infrastructure projects represent environmental determinism or possibilism while evaluating the unintended consequences of technocratic solutions.

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**1. The concept of 'Possibilism' in GEography suggests that while the environment sets certain constraints, culture is determined by social conditions. Which example best illustrates this in a high-density urban context?**

- A. The implementation of 'Sponge Cities' in China to manage urban runoff via permeable pavement.
- B. The collapse of the Mayan civilization due to prolonged regional drought cycles.
- C. The traditional use of yurts by nomadic tribes in the Central Asian Steppe.
- D. The natural deep-water harbor of New York City dictating its role as a trade hub.

**2. The expansion of \_\_\_\_\_ agriculture in the Brazilian Cerrado represents a massive modification of a savanna biome, prioritizing global commodity chains over local biodiversity.**

- A. Subsistence
- B. Industrial Soy
- C. Silviculture
- D. Slash-and-burn

**3. The 'Anthropocene' is a proposed geological epoch where human activity is the dominant influence on climate and the environment.**

- A. True
- B. False

**4. Which of the following best evaluates the 'Trans-Amazonian Highway' as a socio-environmental modification?**

- A. It successfully integrated indigenous populations into the national economy without cultural loss.
- B. It reduced the carbon footprint of Brazil by streamlining inland transport.
- C. It acted as a catalyst for the 'fishbone' pattern of deforestation and increased land-clearing.
- D. It prevented the encroachment of illegal mining by establishing a federal presence.

**5. In the context of political ecology, the concept of \_\_\_\_\_ refers to the uneven distribution of environmental benefits and burdens based on socio-economic status.**

- A. Environmental Racism
- B. Resource Curse
- C. Malthusian Trap
- D. Tragedy of the Commons

**6. The Aral Sea disaster is frequently cited as one of the 20th century's most severe environmental consequences. What was the primary driver of this landscape modification?**

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- A. A shift in tectonic plates altering river courses.
- B. Over-extraction of water for Soviet cotton irrigation projects.
- C. Global sea-level rise causing salinization of the basin.
- D. The construction of the Aswan High Dam upstream.

**7. The 'Great Green Wall' initiative in Africa is an example of an adaptation strategy designed to combat desertification through biological modification.**

- A. True
- B. False

**8. Which scenario best demonstrates the 'Tragedy of the Commons' in the interaction between humans and the lithosphere?**

- A. A private company installing solar panels on a desert plot.
- B. International space debris accumulating in Low Earth Orbit.
- C. Unregulated artisanal gold mining in shared river basins leading to mercury poisoning.
- D. National parks limiting visitors to protect endemic species.

**9. A prime example of human adaptation to seismic risk is the use of \_\_\_\_\_ in skyscrapers like Taipei 101 to counteract swaying during earthquakes.**

- A. External Buttresses
- B. Tuned Mass Dampers
- C. Cantilevered Beams
- D. Reinforced Piles

**10. The concept of 'Landscape as Text' suggests that humans modify their environment in ways that reflect their cultural values, power structures, and beliefs.**

- A. True
- B. False