

Name: _____ Date: _____

Sustaining Systems: Secrets of Strategic Senior Science

Examine the intricate nexus of life cycle assessments and circular economy frameworks through high-level case studies designed for AP-level critical analysis.

1. When conducting a Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) for a smartphone, which stage typically accounts for the highest 'embodied energy' and largest environmental footprint due to rare-earth element extraction?

- A. Post-consumer electronic waste recycling
- B. Raw material acquisition and refining
- C. Regional distribution and logistics
- D. Retail packaging and consumer usage

2. The _____ framework focuses on a metabolic shift in manufacturing where industrial outputs from one process serve as nutrient inputs for another, effectively eliminating the concept of waste.

- A. Linear Economic Model
- B. Cradle-to-Grave Analysis
- C. Cradle-to-Cradle (C2C)
- D. Just-in-Time Manufacturing

3. Jevons Paradox suggests that increasing the efficiency of a resource's use will always lead to a total decrease in the consumption of that resource.

- A. True
- B. False

4. Which of the following best exemplifies the 'Triple Bottom Line' (TBL) evaluation of a corporate wind farm project in a developing coastal region?

- A. Measuring only the net kilowatt-hours produced annually
- B. Focusing solely on the Return on Investment (ROI) for shareholders
- C. Analyzing carbon offsets, local job creation, and long-term profitability
- D. Prioritizing the speed of construction over local zoning regulations

5. In the context of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the 'Precautionary Principle' dictates that if an action has a risk of causing severe harm to the public or environment, the burden of proof falls on _____.

- A. The scientists observing the harm
- B. The general public affected by the risk
- C. Those proposing the action to prove it is safe
- D. International courts after the harm occurs

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6. The concept of 'Planetary Boundaries,' developed by the Stockholm Resilience Centre, identifies which of the following as a threshold already exceeded by human activity?

- A. Ocean Acidification
- B. Freshwater consumption
- C. Biogeochemical flows (Nitrogen and Phosphorus)
- D. Stratospheric ozone depletion

7. Intergenerational equity is the principle that current generations have a moral obligation to ensure future generations have access to the same natural capital we enjoy today.

- A. True
- B. False

8. A city implements a 'Congestion Pricing' zone to reduce traffic and emissions. Economically, this is an attempt to internalize a(n) _____.

- A. Positive externality
- B. Negative externality
- C. Inelastic demand curve
- D. Opportunity cost

9. In a truly 'Circular Economy,' how is the 'end-of-life' for a biological nutrient (like a wood-based textile) handled?

- A. It is incinerated for waste-to-energy recovery
- B. It is downcycled into a lower-quality synthetic fiber
- C. It is safely composted to restore soil fertility
- D. It is stored in a secured, anaerobic landfill

10. The 'Rebound Effect' clarifies that improved energy efficiency usually results in an equal percentage reduction in total energy consumption.

- A. True
- B. False