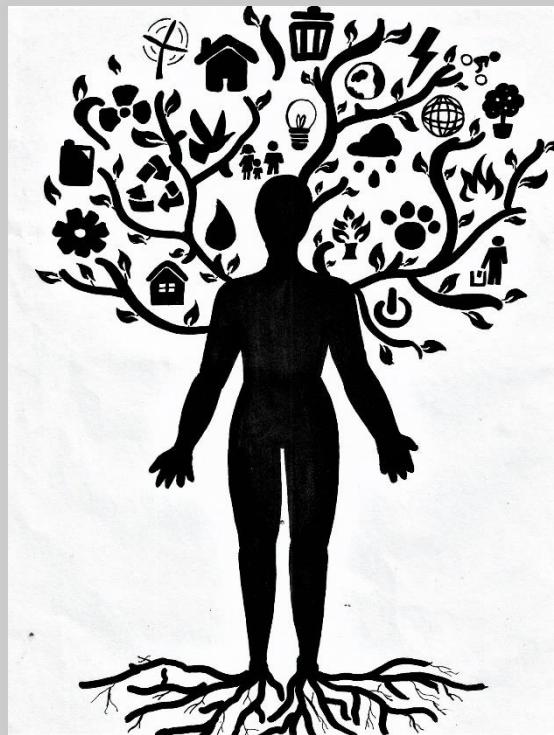


Introduction to the Philosophy of the Human Person

Quarter 1 - Module 4

The Human Person in the Environment



Introduction to the Philosophy of the Human Person- Grade 12

Alternative Delivery Mode

Quarter 1 - Module 4: The Human Person in the Environment

First Edition, 2020

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Senior High School

Introduction to the Philosophy of the Human Person

Quarter 1 - Module 4

This instructional material was collaboratively developed and reviewed by educators from public and private schools, colleges, and or/universities. We encourage teachers and other education stakeholders to email their feedback, comments, and recommendations to the Department of Education at depeddivofcdo@gmail.com

We value your feedback and recommendations.

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Table of Contents

What This Module is About.....	i
What I Need to Know.....	i
How to Learn from this Module	ii
Icons of this Module	ii
What I Know	iii

Lesson 1: Relationship with the Earth

What I Need to Know.....	1
What's New.....	1
What Is It.....	2
What's More.....	4
What I Have Learned	5
What I Can Do:.....	5

Lesson 2: Environmentalism and Sustainability

What I Need to Know	6
What's In.....	6
What's New.....	6
What Is It.....	7
What's More.....	9
What I Have Learned	9
What I Can Do:.....	10
Assessment: (Post-Test).....	10
Key to Answers	12
References	12

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What This Module is About

Generally, the Earth suffers from various environmental problems. Land degradation, loss of biodiversity, air, land and water pollution, global warming, and climate change confront us at present, which in many ways had affected our way of life. Human's intelligence and creativity have modified almost every part of our planet. Environmental scientists had already warned us that the destruction caused by humans is mostly irreparable. Without changes and management, the situation will adversely affect every one of us and will compromise the environments' ability to meet human needs. Since we caused its destruction, we should also be part of the solution by shifting the way we relate with our only home, the Earth. We hope that this module will help you understand how philosophical views influence human action regarding the environment.

The following are the lessons contained in this module:

1. Relationship with the Earth
2. Environmentalism & Sustainability



What I Need to Know

At the end of this module, you should be able to:

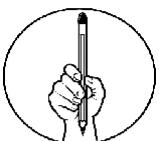
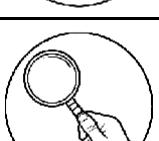
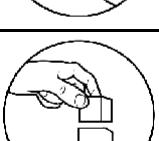
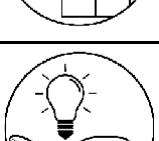
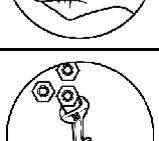
1. Notice disorder in an environment (PPT11/12-li-4.1)
2. Notice things that are not in their proper place and organize them in an aesthetic way (PPT11/12-li-4.2)
3. Show that care for the environment contributes to health, well-being and sustainable development (PPT11/12-lj-4.3)
4. Demonstrate the virtues of prudence and frugality towards environments (PPT11/12-lj-4.4)

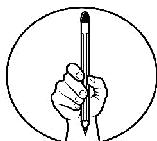
How to Learn from this Module

To achieve the objectives cited above, you are to do the following:

- Take your time to read the lessons carefully.
- Follow the directions and instructions in the activities and exercises diligently.
- Answer all the given tests and exercises.

Icons of this Module

	What I Need to Know	This part contains learning objectives that are set for you to learn as you go along the Module.
	What I know	This is an assessment as to your level of knowledge to the subject matter at hand, meant specifically to gauge prior related knowledge
	What's In	This part connects previous lesson with that of the current one.
	What's New	An introduction of the new lesson through various activities, before it will be presented to you
	What is It	These are discussions of the activities as a way to deepen your discovery and understanding of the concept.
	What's More	These are follow-up activities that are intended for you to practice further in order to master the competencies.
	What I Have Learned	Activities designed to process what you have learned from the lesson
	What I can do	These are tasks that are designed to showcase your skills and knowledge gained, and applied into real-life concerns and situations.



What I Know

A. Answer each question correctly in its corresponding item. Write your answers in your activity notebook.

1. Which discipline in philosophy studies the moral relationship of human beings to, and also the value and moral status of, the environment and its non-human contents?
A. Environmental aesthetics C. Sustainable Development
B. Environmental ethics D. Ecology

2. Which of the perspective considers humans to be the most important species with a superior value than other species?
A. Biocentrism C. Environmentalism
B. Ecocentrism D. Anthropocentrism

3. Which of the following claims that humans are not the only important species on the earth and that they are not inherently greater to other living things?
A. Biocentrism C. Environmentalism
B. Ecocentrism D. Anthropocentrism

4. Which of the following believes that humankind is merely a portion of the biological system or community and that we have an significant role as stewards of nature?
A. Biocentrism C. Environmentalism
B. Ecocentrism D. Anthropocentrism

5. Why did the discipline of environmental ethics arise?
A. People are concerned about the growing population and the misuse of natural resources.
B. The government is worried about climate change.
C. There are new sources of energy to meet the demands of the present.
D. Community leaders encouraged us to show care about pollution.

6. Which philosophical view asserts that improving the natural beauty of the environment will contribute to the well-being of the people and other living organisms?
A. Environmental aesthetics C. Sustainable Development
B. Environmental ethics D. Ecology

7. Which of these is the moral approach to understanding the relationship between humans and the environment?
A. Environmental aesthetics C. Environmentalism
B. Environmental ethics D. Environmental justice

8. Why is environmental ethics important?
A. It serves as the basis for policy making aimed at protecting the environment.
B. It allows as to make use of the earth's resources to satisfy our needs and wants.
C. It calls us to use technology to improve the environment.
D. It gives us an idea to shut down industries because they cause pollution.

9. Which of these statements is related to sustainable development?
- A. Human activities must maintain the diversity and productivity of the earth.
 - B. Humans must be frugal and prudent in using our natural resources.
 - C. Humans must use resources at a rate that it can be replenished in a natural way.
 - D. Human may exhaust resources for as long as he is satisfied.
10. Which of the following is concerned with the physical or the natural environment and on how it withstands and stay diverse and productive.
- A. Ecological balance
 - B. Economic Sustainability
 - C. Environmental Sustainability
 - D. Social Sustainability
11. Which dimension of sustainable development aims for long-term economic growth without damagingly impacting other aspects of society?
- A. Ecological balance
 - B. Economic Sustainability
 - C. Environmental Sustainability
 - D. Social Sustainability
12. Which dimension of sustainable development considers how individuals in the society live with each other on the basis of health, equality, peace and food security?
- A. Ecological balance
 - B. Economic Sustainability
 - C. Environmental Sustainability
 - D. Social Sustainability
13. Which virtue reminds us to discover a means to reduce the financial cost of our action?
- A. Patience
 - B. Frugality
 - C. Prudence
 - D. Passion
14. Which virtue reminds us to be wise in terms of decision-making?
- A. Patience
 - B. Frugality
 - C. Prudence
 - D. Passion
15. Which of the following sets a critical understanding on how we create an impact on the environment we live?
- A. Sustainable development
 - B. Environmental aesthetics
 - C. Environmentalism
 - D. Anthropocentrism

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**Lesson
1**

Relationship with the Earth



What I Need to Know

Every day we encounter how nature is destroyed. We all have altered the environment positively and negatively, and in turn, the environment affects how we live in many different ways. As we continue to grow in number, we also create a greater impact on the Earth. Thus, it is necessary that we put on our shoulders our role and relationship with the earth. As stewards of the earth, we must maintain order in the environment, as we are so reliant on the resources and services it provides. We have to ask ourselves then: "What is my role in nature?" Do I have the right to pollute the environment?

At the end of the lesson, you will appreciate your significant role in our only home, the earth.

Learning Competencies:

1. Notice disorder in an environment (PPT11/12-Ili-4.1)
2. Notice things that are not in their proper place and organize them in an aesthetic way (PPT11/12-Ili-4.2)

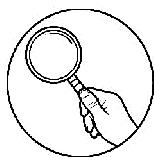


What's New

Activity 1: The Environment: Then and Now

You shall be interviewing your mother, father, grandmother, or grandfather in this activity. For sure, they can help you accomplish this task. Use the following questions during the interview. You may simplify or use your local dialect during the interview. Write a summary of the significant insights you have noted.

1. What are the things that you remember in your environment back then when you were my age?
2. Are there changes in the environment, then and now?
3. What positive and negative changes did you observe in the environment?
4. Who do you think is responsible for these changes?



What Is It

Masdan Mo Ang Kapaligiran

As popularized by Asin

Composers: Lolita Carbon & Cesar Bañares

Year: 1978

Wala ka bang napapansin sa iyong mga kapaligiran?
Kay dumi na ng hangin, pati na ang mga ilog natin.
Hindi na masama ang pag-unlad
At malaya-layo na rin ang ating narating
Ngunit masdan mo ang tubig sa dagat
Dati'y kulay asul ngayo'y naging itim
Ang mga duming ating ikinalat sa hangin
Sa langit huwag na nating paabutin

The first line of the song is a striking question on the magnitude of our awareness of the environment. This song makes us contemplate what is happening in our environment. And yes, we are all responsible for its destruction and disorder, directly and indirectly. Population explosion, increase in energy utilization and the accumulation of carbon dioxides in the atmosphere, pollution in various forms, industrial activities, economic activities, and anthropogenic activities put tremendous pressure on the earth's natural resources resulting in ecological imbalance. As a manifestation of such, natural calamities are happening claiming the lives of many people and damaging properties and infrastructures. The song is a timely reminder that we have to act very soon before we totally destroy the only nature that we have. Now, take a few moments to reflect on why these natural calamities and environmental problems are happening. What has been causing all of these?

What environmental disorders have you observed in our community?

Are you pleased with what is happening? What do you think must be done to improve the current state of our environment?

Humankind is An essential part of the web of life. Whatever we do to the environment, we do to ourselves. It is therefore significant that we examine not only the way we relate to others, but also the way we relate to the environment. Mahatma Gandhi, one of the most respected spiritual and political leaders of the 1900s, said "The Earth provides enough to satisfies every man's needs, but not every man's greed."

We, humans, exploit nature and considered ourselves to be the most superior beings. What we actually forget is that we are just a part of natural surroundings just like other non-human entities like plants and animals. This is why an understanding of environmental ethics becomes essential. Let us try to understand environmental ethics, the issues confronting them, and our moral responsibility towards the environment.

Do you agree with Mahatma Gandhi? Why or why not?

As defined by Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, **environmental ethics** is the discipline in philosophy that studies the moral relationship of human beings to, and also the value and moral status of, the environment and its non-human contents. Simply, environmental ethics studies the relationships between human beings and the environment. Environmental ethics will help us manage our natural resources wisely to meet our growing needs and wants.

Why should we learn environmental ethics?

For us to better grasp we, humans are related to the environment, let us try to understand the three major perspectives in environmental ethics: anthropocentrism, biocentrism, and ecocentrism.

Anthropocentrism is a view that considers humans to be the most important species with a superior worth than other species. This view mainly focuses on humans and puts the other entities of the natural world at the background. As value is focused on humans alone, all other things of the natural world are considered of lesser significance. As a result, human beings continually destroy and consume natural resources for their own interest to the point of degradation, and worst to extinction.

In opposition, **biocentrism** claims that humans are not the only important species on the earth and that they are not inherently greater to other living things. It suggests that humans are equal members of the environment and that humans and other living things are interdependent.

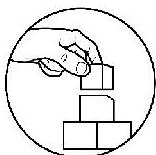
Ecocentrism, on the other hand, is a broader worldview as it incorporates biocentrism by including environmental systems and its abiotic aspects. This view believes that humankind is merely a portion of the biological system or community and that we have an vital role as stewards of nature. Ecocentrism tells us that both living and non-living organisms are reliant on the processes in the ecosystem.

In your own idea, which of these perspectives can become very damaging if not carefully thought of? Why?

We all play a significant part in the environment and in our hands lies the future of the Earth. We are all stewards and we can be the catalysts of change in our particular setting.

Try to look around in your community. Is it clean and orderly? How will you address the situation in your little ways?

In order to create a clean and orderly environment, we can make use of the principles of environmental aesthetics. **Environmental aesthetics** is one of the new areas of **aesthetics** that focuses on issues concerning appreciation of the environment. Environmental aesthetics can be defined as the interaction between a person and his environment, with respect to beauty. This philosophical view asserts that improving the natural beauty of the environment will contribute to the well-being of the people and other living organisms.



What's More

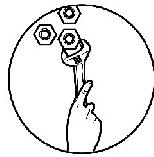
Activity 2: Personal Views on Environmental Issues

Review on the key perspectives in environmental ethics and share your personal views in the following environmental issues.

Environmental Issues	Personal Views
Ecocentrists would argue that mining is immoral because it is so harmful to the environment.	
Do we need to convert agricultural lands to residential to accommodate the growing population?	
Should we use less energy because it is harming the planet?	

What I Have Learned

There are three major perspectives in environmental ethics. The first one is (1)_____. It is philosophical view that considers humans to be the most important species. As value is focused on humans alone, all other entities of the natural world are considered of (2)_____ value. Biocentrism, on the other hand, claims that (3)_____ are not the only important species on the earth and that they are not inherently greater to other (4)_____. Humans are (5)_____ members of the environment and that humans and other living things are (6)_____. Lastly, ecocentrism, incorporates (7)_____ by including (8)_____ and its (9)_____ aspects.



What I Can Do

Activity 3: Putting Things Right

Consider how you can organize the following situation aesthetically.

Situation	What to do?
Stinky comfort room	
Plastic wastes clogging the canals	
Vandalism	
Garbage dumped on sidewalks	
Stagnant water in tin cans, bottles, and containers	

Lesson **2**

Environmentalism & Sustainability



What I Need to Know

It is apparent that we just take many things around for granted- the air we breathe, the water that quenches our thirst, the ground where we stand are just some of the things our planet gives us for free. To some of us, the earth is just a thing used to satisfy our needs and wants. The earth from which we derive most of the natural resources is under threat due to land degradation, deforestation, and pollution. All of these happen as a result of man's needs. It is therefore imperative that we have to play an active role in protecting and conserving the environment before we suffer the horrible consequences that may be impossible to bear.

Learning Competencies:

1. Show that care for the environment contributes to health, well-being and sustainable development. (PPT11/12-Ij-4.3)
2. Demonstrate the virtues of prudence and frugality towards environments (PPT11/12-Ij-4.4)



What's In

In Lesson 1, we already learned that our anthropocentric view of the environment has resulted in its degradation and destruction. Humans, being considered as a superior being exploited nature and have forgotten that they are just part of the natural surroundings just like other non-human entities like plants and animals. In Lesson 2, you shall learn about the concepts of environmentalism and sustainability. It is hoped that after completing this module, you will be able to realize that care for the environment contributes to health, well-being, and sustainable development and be able to demonstrate the virtues of prudence and frugality towards the environment.



What's New

Activity 1. Quick Reflection

In 1854 Chief Seattle gave a moving speech about the sacredness of the land and the need for cautious stewardship of it. Below is a famous line from his speech. Try to reflect and analyze the message that he wanted to convey and answer the questions that follow.

"Man did not weave the web of life. He is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself."

1. What is the message that Chief Seattle wanted to convey?

2. Do you agree that we are just merely a strand in the web?

3. Why do we need to care for the environment?



What is It

We have harmed the environment in various ways: the population has increased tremendously, pollution in the air, water, and land continue to affect the quality of life, and deforestation has altered the natural habitats of many living organisms. All these contribute to significant changes in temperature, precipitation, or wind patterns. In environmental terms, we call it climate change. This is where environmentalism comes into play.

Environmentalism, as an ideology, seeks to protect and conserve the earth's ecosystem and the living organisms, together with its habitats. Environmentalism seeks to correct the damage of the environment and prevent its future destruction. One key perspective of environmentalism is environmental ethics that views how we relate with Earth and all that is in it. It sets a critical understanding of how we create an impact on the environment we live in.

Do you agree that your actions have an impact on the environment? Why?

Have you ever realized that your actions today may have lasting impacts on the environment? In what way will these affect the Earth?

Aside from what has been mentioned earlier, environmental ethics makes us aware of the dangers of human activities, inculcate among us the moral responsibility towards the environment and respect the various forms of life and the natural resources within it. To put it simply, it urges us to reflect on our actions and protect the welfare and well-being of the environs. It is also a call for the government, institutions, and organizations to channel their efforts for the good of the environment. Moreover, it appeals for environmental justice that calls for just and fair treatment and meaningful participation of all people.

A vital idea that fall in with environmentalism is sustainability which desires to have a society where natural resources are utilized to meet human needs without damaging the wellbeing of the natural system. Sustainable development is geared towards development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainable development is what the present time needs not just for the survival of humankind but also for its future security. We should not only focus on today but also let's think about the generations to come.

Try to contemplate on how you utilize the available resources around you like food, water, and energy. Are you using it efficiently or have you been overusing it? Does it harm the environment? How can we use Earth's resources sustainably?

Sustainable development has three dimensions namely, the environment, the economy, and society. Environmental sustainability is concerned with the physical or the natural environment and on how it withstands and stay diverse and productive. This is the dimension that requires the society to come with activities that will meet human needs while at the same time preserving the earth's natural systems. If resources are used faster than they are replenished, then an unsustainable situation occurs. This requires us to use resources at a rate at which it can be replenished in a natural way.

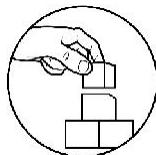
Another essential dimension is economic sustainability. This pertains to economic activities that aim for long-term economic growth without damagingly impacting other aspects of society. The economy cannot be separated from the environment because it provides the factors of economic production. Social sustainability considers how individuals in society live with each other on the basis of health, equality, peace, and food security. All these aims to use our resources efficiently to benefit our community.

There are virtues that can help us contribute to improving the state of our environment namely, prudence and frugality. The word frugality is usually used in money; being thrifty and economical. If put in the context of the environment, this would mean conserving as well as protecting the environment, not just for the present but also in the years to come. A frugal person continually discovers a means to reduce the financial cost of his action. What about being prudent? To be prudent is to be wise in terms of decision-making. He acts and shows care for the future by checking your resources first before spending.

Are you prudent, frugal, or both? Why?

Now that you have learned about sustainable development, are you willing to apply these principles and virtues in your home, school, and community? How will you apply these principles?

Human activities have indeed altered the balance of nature. In our hands lie the responsibility to save and restore the only living planet in the universe. We are already equipped with the knowledge about environmental ethics, environmentalism and sustainable development, why not make yourself a catalyst of change and an ambassador of the earth? The work begins, NOW!



What's More

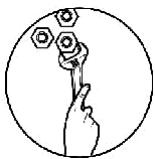
Activity 2: My Life in the Year 2040

Imagine that you are in the year 2040 and you are writing a letter to your younger self in the year 2020, what message will you write to make sure that world is still a better place to live in in the year 2040.



What I Have Learned

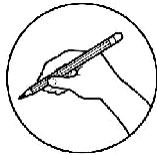
- Environmentalism, as an ideology, seeks to (1) _____ and (2) _____ the earth's ecosystem and the living organisms, together with its habitats. Environmentalism seeks to correct the damage of the environment and prevent its future destruction.
- Environmental ethics makes us aware of the dangers of (3) _____, inculcate among us the (4) _____ towards the environment and respect the various forms of life and the natural resources within it.
- Sustainable development is geared towards development that meets the (5) _____ of the present without compromising the ability of (6) _____ to meet their own needs. Sustainable development is what the present time needs not just for the survival of humankind but also for its future security.
- Sustainable development has three dimensions namely, the (7) _____, the (8) _____ and (9) _____.
- Environmental sustainability is concerned with the (10) _____ environment and on how it withstands and stay diverse and productive.



What I Can Do

Complete the table below by listing sustainable practices that are beneficial to the environment in the first column and non-sustainable practices in the second column.

Sustainable Practices/ Activities	Non-sustainable Practices/Activities



Assessment: (Post-Test)

Answer each questions correctly in its corresponding item. Write your answers in your activity notebook.

1. Which discipline in philosophy studies the moral relationship of human beings to, and also the value and moral status of, the environment and its non-human contents?
A. Environmental aesthetics C. Sustainable Development
B. Environmental ethics D. Ecology

2. Which of the perspective considers humans to be the most important species with a superior value than other species?
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3. Which of the following claims that humans are not the only important species on the earth and that they are not inherently greater to other living things?
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B. Ecocentrism D. Anthropocentrism

4. Which of the following believes that humankind is merely a portion of the biological system or community and that we have an important role as stewards of nature?
A. Biocentrism C. Environmentalism
B. Ecocentrism D. Anthropocentrism

5. Why did the discipline of environmental ethics arise?
A. People are concerned about the growing population and misuse of natural resources.
B. The government is worried about climate change.
C. There are new sources of energy to meet the demands of present.
D. Community leaders encouraged us to show care about pollution.

6. Which philosophical view asserts that improving the natural beauty of the environment will contribute to the well-being of the people and other living organisms?
- A. Environmental aesthetics C. Sustainable Development
B. Environmental ethics D. Ecology
7. Which of these is a moral approach in understanding the relationship between humans and the environment?
- A. Environmental aesthetics C. Environmentalism
B. Environmental ethics D. Environmental justice
8. Why is environmental ethics important?
- A. It serves as basis for policy making aimed at protecting the environment.
B. It allows us to make use of the earth's resources to satisfy our needs and wants.
C. It calls for us to use technology to improve the environment.
D. It gives us an idea to shut down industries because they cause pollution.
9. Which of these statements is related to sustainable development?
- A. Human activities must maintain the diversity and productivity of the earth.
B. Humans must be frugal and prudent in using our natural resources.
C. Humans must use resources at a rate that it can be replenished in a natural way.
D. Humans may exhaust resources for as long as he is satisfied.
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- A. Patience C. Prudence
B. Frugality D. Passion
14. Which virtue reminds us to be wise in terms of decision-making?
- A. Patience C. Prudence
B. Frugality D. Passion

15. Which of the following sets a critical understanding on how we create an impact on the environment we live?
- A. Sustainable development
 - B. Environmental aesthetics
 - C. Environmentalism
 - D. Anthropocentrism



Key to Answers

What I Have Learned	Pre/Post Test	Lesson 1	Lesson 2	World
1. anthropocentrism	1. A	1. project	1. conserve	10. physical/natural
2. lesser value	2. D	2. Conserve	2. human activities	9. social
3. human	3. A	3. human	3. humanism/life-forms	8. economic
4. B	4. B	4. moral responsibility	4. interdependence	7. environmental
5. A	5. A	5. equal	5. need/s	6. future generations
6. C	6. C	6. organizations/life-forms	6. interdependent	5. environmental
7. C	7. C	7. biocentrism	7. biodiversity	4. economic
8. A	8. A	8. environmental system	8. environmental	3. social
9. A	9. A	9. abiotic aspects	9. environmental	2. physical
10. C	10. C	10. biodiversity	10. physical/natural	1. world
11. B	11. B	11. environmental system		
12. D	12. D	12. biocentrism		
13. B	13. B	13. environmental system		
14. C	14. C	14. abiotic aspects		
15. C	15. C	15. biodiversity		

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