

EIA Sample Test Questions and Answer Key

Introduction to EIA questions

1.1 EIA is defined as (select one):

- a. A process of identifying, predicting, and evaluating the likely impacts of a proposed project or development to define mitigation actions to reduce negative impacts and to provide positive contributions to the natural environment and well-being
- b. A report written by government representatives on the planned development impacts of environment, socio-economic issues and culture
- c. Project life-cycle assessment

1.2 **True** or False? More than 100 countries have legislation on EIA.

1.3 What is essential in an EIA? (select all that apply):

- a. That it allows decision makers to assess a project's impacts in all its phases
- b. That it allows the public and other stakeholders to present their views and inputs on the planned development
- c. That it contributes to and improve the project design, so that environmental as well as socioeconomic measures are core parts of it

1.4 Other assessments similar to EIA include (select all that apply):

- a. SEA – strategic environmental assessment
- b. SIA – strategic impact assessment
- c. IEA – integrated environmental assessment

1.5 True or **False**? Honduras is currently in the process of revising its legislation on EIA.

Screening questions

2.1 What is the purpose of the “screening” step of EIA? (Select all that apply)

- a. To assess the quality of the project design
- b. To facilitate informed decision making by providing clear, well-structured, factual analysis of the effects and consequences of proposed actions
- c. To determine whether a full EIA needed

2.2 Which type of project usually requires an EIA? (Select all that apply):

- a. Small housing building
- b. Dams and reservoirs
- c. Industrial plants (large scale)
- d. Community garden development
- e. Irrigation, drainage, and flood control (large scale)
- f. Mining and mineral development (including oil and gas)



- g. Port and harbour development
- h. Development of wells in the community
- i. Reclamation, resettlement and new land development;
- j. Thermal and hydropower development
- k. Outdoor recreation

2.3 EIA is usually required for a development project when (select all that apply):

- a. Large changes are expected in the environment
- b. Limited impacts are expected in the environment
- c. A small area is expected to be affected by the project
- d. There are potentials for transboundary impact
- e. Many people are likely to be affected by the project
- f. No cumulative impacts are expected
- g. There are protected areas in the project area of influence

2.4 **True** or False? Typically, the project proponents carry out the screening process by assessing their project based upon a set of criteria determined by a designated agency.

2.5 True or **False**? In Honduras, screening is carried out via an online system for development projects only classified under category 1 (low impact).

Scoping questions

3.1 What is true of the Scoping step? (select all that apply)

- a. It is a systematic exercise that establishes the boundaries of an EIA
- b. It clearly indicates what is relevant and what is not relevant within an EIA
- c. It serves as a work plan for the entire EIA process

3.2 Which one of the steps below is NOT included in the scoping process? (select one)

- a. Set up the team of experts that will conduct the EIA.
- b. Describe the project area and the area of the project influence.
- c. Outline project alternative for preparation, implementation and closure.
- d. Conduct public meetings and stakeholder consultations; integrate comments and collected feedback into project planning and alternatives.
- e. Create a set of environmental, biological and socioeconomic areas that will be used in the assessment.
- f. Define a set of criteria to assess the project.
- g. Identify and describe the environmental impacts and create a contingency plan
- h. Identify a set of data for baseline descriptions and potential additional data collection needs.
- i. Start inserting this information in the appropriate section of the TOR.

3.3 **True** or False? Public consultation is a critical part of the EIA, and in some Central American countries it is mandated by legislation.



- 3.4 True or **False**? TORs are always prescribed in national EIA legislation
- 3.5 In Honduras, what is meant by the development project's Areas of Influence? (select one)
- a. The project environment that is located outside the area of the overall project and extends from its boundaries to a distance of 500 metres.
 - b. The sector within which the EIA will be developed (Mining, Tourism, etc.)
 - c. The environmental impacts that will occur outside of the project due to water flow, migratory species, etc.

Impact Assessment and Mitigation questions

- 4.1 What is included in an Impact assessment? (select all that apply)
- a. a detailed assessment of the planned project and selected alternatives compared to the baseline conditions
 - b. Qualitative descriptions measuring high, medium and low impacts
 - c. Quantitative descriptions such as indicating the cubic metres of water withdrawn, sewage produced, and pollutants released
 - d. All the data collection, analyses, and developed plans summarized together in a well-structured and concise document
- 4.2 **True** or False? Impact assessment is done for the planned project *and* the identified alternatives.
- 4.3 The key focus areas of Mitigation measures should include (select all that apply):
- a. Preventive measures that avoid the occurrence of impacts and thus avoid harm or even produce positive outcomes.
 - b. Measures that focus on limiting or lessening the severity and the duration of the impacts.
 - c. The identification of compensation mechanisms for those impacts that are unavoidable and cannot be reduced further.
- 4.4 Please select the one item from the list below that is NOT an example of an approach to impact assessment:
- a. Expert judgment
 - b. Quantitative physical and mathematical models
 - c. Social impact assessment
 - d. **One-off impact assessment**
 - e. Matrices and interaction diagrams
 - f. Rapid Impact Assessment Matrix (RIAM)
 - g. Battelle Environmental Evaluation System
- 4.5 **True** or False? In a Leopold Matrix, the rows cover the key aspects of the environment and society, while the columns list the project's activities during all stages of the project.



Impact Management questions

- 5.1 A core part of Impact Management is developing an EMP – environmental management plan. Please indicate which items from the list below are contents of the EMP (select all that apply)
- a. Mitigation
 - b. Monitoring
 - c. Capacity Development
 - d. Implementation Schedule and Cost Estimates
 - e. Contingency plans
 - f. TOR
- 5.2 True or False? Impact Management plans are often compulsory.
- 5.3 What is NOT a key step in developing an EMP?
- a. Summary of the potential impacts of the proposal.
 - b. A review of EIA legislation in 5 different countries
 - c. Description of the recommended mitigation measures.
 - d. Statement of their compliance with relevant standards.
 - e. Allocation of resources and responsibilities for plan implementation.
 - f. Schedule of the actions to be taken.
 - g. Program for monitoring and auditing.
- 5.4 What is a contingency plan? (select the best answer)
- a. A set of guidelines ensuring that the development project will remain within its boundaries.
 - b. A plan of actions to prevent an emergency and to be taken when emergencies occur.
 - c. A plan describing the measures that will be taken to contain or treat any waste produced by the development project.
- 5.5 True or False? In Honduras, an EMP is only requested for project in category 4 (High impact).

EIA Report questions

- 6.1 What specific aspects does a good EIA report and review include? (select all that apply)
- a. Assessment, mitigation measures and related plans
 - b. A terms of reference (TOR)
 - c. A generalized set of assumptions about the project benefits described in highly technical terms.
 - d. A satisfactory prediction of the adverse effects of proposed actions and their mitigation using conventional and customized techniques.
 - e. Information that is helpful and relevant to decision making.



- 6.2 True or **False**? The EIA Report is compiled by the designated government agency.
- 6.3 There are many known shortcomings in EIA reports. Which is NOT a known shortcoming? (Select one)
- a. The description of the proposal does not cover key features.
 - b. Appropriate mitigating measures are not considered.
 - c. Insufficient or outdated prediction models are used.
 - d. All relevant stakeholder's concerns are incorporated.**
- 6.3 **True** or False? The EIA report development is the last step in terms of conducting the impact assessment done by the project team and the involved consultants.
- 6.5 Below is a detailed overview of the TOR in Honduras. Two of the items do not belong. Can you find them? (select two)
- a. Proponent details and Index
 - b. Executive Summary of the EIA
 - c. Project description and alternatives
 - d. Legal considerations and environmental regulations applicable
 - e. Summary of similar environmental regulations in neighboring countries**
 - f. Description of physical environment
 - g. Description of biological environment
 - h. Description of Socioeconomic environment
 - i. Identification and prioritization of environmental impacts
 - j. Identification of any stakeholders who are against the project**
 - k. Environmental Management Plan
 - l. Risk Analysis and Contingency Plan
 - m. Cost Analysis - Environmental Benefit
 - n. Environmental Policy for the project and its regulations
 - o. Environmental monitoring plan

Review of the EIA report and licensing

- 7.1 What are the key objectives of EIA review? (select all that apply)
- a. Confirm the quality of the information and methods used in an EIA.**
 - b. Ensure that it that it addresses all the critical and cumulative impacts and identified relevant mitigation measures**
 - c. Take into account inputs from public comment.**



- 7.2 **True** or false? A good quality EIA might still lead to the planned development not being permitted to go ahead based on the identified impacts.
- 7.3 There is often a formal review and licensing procedure in EIA systems. Who would carry out such a procedure?
- a. The proponent of the development project
 - b. The government authority ultimately responsible for licensing development projects (i.e government infrastructure department)
 - c. Another government agency or committee
 - d. an independent body
- 7.4 Experience with EIA review in a number of countries has shown that public comment is a critical part of the EIA review process. What are common methods to ensure the public can comment on the project? (Select all that apply)
- a. Public hearing(s)
 - b. Written comments submitted to the proponent or government department
 - c. Creation of TV shows and/or magazine articles to describe the project
- 7.5 Who carries out the technical review procedure of the EIA in Honduras?
- a. *MiAmbiente* through the Office of Evaluation and Environmental Control (DECA)
 - b. A Non-governmental Organization called "Transparency in Honduran Development Projects"
 - c. The Honduran infrastructure and planning department.

Monitoring

- 8.1 What kind of monitoring is referred to when we speak of monitoring a development project (select all that apply)
- a. Monitoring indicators that measure the impacts on the environment and communities as a result of the development project
 - b. Ensuring the fulfillment of all the commitments made in the approved EIA.
 - c. Keeping track of changes that may happen in the environment and communities because of the project and other local and/or global changes, such as changes in livelihoods due to economic crisis or migration, differences in water availability due to drought, etc.
 - d. Keeping track of the political context, to ensure that the project retains its licence.
- 8.2 From the list below, please select which item does NOT require any indicators in order to monitor identified environmental and social impacts and mitigation measures: (Select one):
- a. The amount and range of stakeholders who participated in the scoping stage
 - b. The most important impacts
 - c. The effectiveness of the mitigation measures to make sure that they indeed reduce the impacts.
 - d. The actions proposed in the contingency plans



8.3 Who carries out the data collection for monitoring indicators? (select all that apply)

- a. The project's implementers
- b. National governments or independent agencies.
- c. International development banks or aid agencies

8.4 True or false? Frequency of monitoring will be determined by the nature of the project

8.5 Who is responsible for monitoring an EIA in Honduras? (select all that apply)

- a. The World Bank ensures that all Honduran development projects comply with international standards
- b. SINEIA is part of the actions of autoregulation environmental projects, works or activities.
- c. DECA is in charge of monitoring and oversight of the project's environmental performance through visits.
- d. The local municipality is responsible for supporting overall supervision

Answer Key

Question	Right answer(s)	Feedback (if applicable)
1.1	a	
1.2	true	
1.3	a,b,c	
1.4	a, b	Strategic Impact Assessment does not exist
1.5	false	Honduras modernized its EIA legislation in 2009.
2.1	b,c	At the screening step, the project design is not considered because it may not even require an EIA.
2.2	b,c,e,f,g,i,j	
2.3	a,d,e,g	
2.4	true	
2.5	false	Projects under the categories 1 (low), 2 (low-moderate) and 3 (moderate-high) are screened using the online system. Only the projects classified as category 4 (High environmental impact) are not screened using the online system.
3.1	a,b,c	
3.2	g	A contingency plan is created only during the Impact Management step. During the Scoping step, it is only necessary to identify the project impacts, during its all stages and create a list of significant and non-significant impacts and explain why.
3.3	true	
3.4	false	In some countries, the proponent prepares its own TOR guided legislations and in others the TOR is prescribed in the legislation
3.5	a	



4.1	a,b,c	D is incorrect – this refers to compiling the EIA Report, which is carried out in the next step.
4.2	true	
4.3	a,b,c	
4.4	d	'One-off impact assessment' does not exist
4.5	true	
5.1	a,b,c,d,e	The TOR is not part of the EMP. TORs give guidelines for the EIA report content and they are created during the scoping phase.
5.2	true	
5.3	b	
5.4	b	
5.5	false	In Honduras, EMP can be requested for projects, activities, and works in Category 2, 3, or 4.
6.1	a,b,d,e	
6.2	false	
6.3	d	
6.4	true	
6.5	e,j	
7.1	a,b,c	
7.2	true	
7.3	b,c,d	
7.4	a,b	
7.5	a	
8.1	a,b,c	
8.2	a	
8.3	a	
8.4	true	
8.5	b,c,d	

Source: EIA Online Learning Platform - <http://www.iisd.org/learning/eia>