

EEB 2208 (Introduction to Conservation Biology)

Sample Test Questions: Lectures 6-10

Before attempting to answer these questions, make sure you read the document titled “Exam Format Information”, which is posted on the web site under “Important course documents”. That document explains how to answer questions on my exams.

For the following sets of questions identify all answers that are correct. Each numbered item is worth 1 point.

Why did heath hens go extinct? (5 points)

1. Because no land was protected for them.
2. Because their habitat was destroyed.
3. Because they are a long-lived species with high reproductive rates.
4. Because a harsh winter killed many individuals.
5. Because they were hunted.

A recent study by Koh et al. described patterns of co-extinction. Which of the following results arose from that study? (5 points)

6. Many symbiotic species are vulnerable to extinction.
7. Most future extinctions are likely to be due to co-extinctions.
8. The risk of co-extinctions is far less serious than previously thought.
9. The extinction of currently endangered species will result in 1000s of co-extinctions.
10. In the past 100 years, millions of species have gone extinct because their host species have gone extinct.

Which of these statements about habitat loss are true? (5 points)

11. The area of tropical rainforest destroyed each year is about the same as the area of Connecticut.
12. About half of the wetland habitat in the U.S. (excluding Alaska) has been lost in the last two centuries.
13. Most habitat loss is caused by urban development.
14. Well over half the coral reef habitat in the world has been lost or severely damaged.
15. Habitat loss and degradation affects more endangered species in the US than any other threat.

Which of the following statements correctly link a species with the factors that threaten it? (5 points)

16. Sea turtles are threatened because they are poor dispersers.
17. Red-cockaded woodpeckers are threatened because they require specific habitat conditions that are rare.
18. Large blue butterflies are threatened because they are extreme habitat specialists.
19. Flattened musk turtles are threatened because they hybridize with other turtle species.
20. Vultures are threatened by overuse of painkillers in farming.

Which of the following statements about over-harvest are true? (5 points)

21. Species with high reproductive rates are most vulnerable to over-harvest.
22. Over-harvest tends to affect plants more than animals.
23. Bush-meat is exported from Africa for profit.
24. Many marine species are threatened by over-harvest even though they have no commercial value.
25. The annual harvest of millions of mourning doves is sustainable.

Why are there more endangered species in Hawaii than in California? (5 points)

26. Hawaii has more large species than California.
27. Hawaiian species have more complex life-histories than Californian species.
28. Hawaii is a group of remote islands.
29. Humans have destroyed more habitat in Hawaii than in California.
30. Introduced predators have a bigger impact on island species than on mainland species.

31. In 1998, Wilcove et al. published a summary of the different threats faced by endangered species in the U.S. Describe the relative importance of the different threats they considered, and compare the results for vertebrates, invertebrates, and plants. (6 points)

32. Define the following terms. (4 points)

Trophic cascade:

Extinction debt:

Genetic bottleneck:

Symbiotic:

33. Give four ways in which roads negatively affect species. (4 points)