

Warmup questions - Fragile System

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Questions: 12

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1. (Points: 10)

Carrying capacity is

- a. the sum of all the energy resources available to humans on Earth.
- b. the minimum area required to support one human over an average lifespan.
- c. the number of people that can be supported given the extent of arable land today.
- d. the highest density of human population possible within a small area.
- e. the maximum number of people Earth can support at a sustainable level.

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2. (Points: 10)

After reading section 1.3, try to match up those aspects from the section in one column to aspects in this course you expect or anticipate it to be related to.

Column preview

1. Weathering of different rock types.	a. Anticipating where on our planet earthquakes are most likely to occur.
2. Dynamics of Earth and why ocean floors and continents are different.	b. How the relationship between Earth with other objects in the solar system can be hazardous.
3. Transport and redistribution of materials within the Earth.	c. Factors affecting creation, maintenance and decline of hazardous storms.
4. Energetics that drives movement of water between surface and atmosphere.	d. Likelihood that steep ground will fail catastrophically
5. Processes that occur at the interface between land and water.	e. Why naturally occurring wave behavior of water surfaces can be hazardous.
6. The time scale of Earth processes is many hundreds of millions of years.	f. Reasons why there are several different types of volcanoes.

Matching pairs

1	- Select choice -
2	- Select choice -
3	- Select choice -
4	- Select choice -
5	- Select choice -
6	- Select choice -

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3. (Points: 10)

Which of the following natural hazards always gets its primary energy from forces external to planet Earth?

- a. volcano
- b. earthquake
- c. hurricane
- d. tsunami
- e. landslide

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4. (Points: 10)

In the past 100 years, human population growth has been exponential. What is predicted for the next 100 years?

- a. accelerated exponential growth
- b. continued exponential growth
- c. linear growth
- d. slowing population growth
- e. population crash (rapid population decrease)

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5. (Points: 10)

Losses from natural disasters are increasing mostly because (choose the most important factor).

- a. of global warming.
- b. disasters are happening more frequently.
- c. modern disasters are more intense than previous disasters.
- d. scientists can now measure their intensity more accurately.
- e. population and the number of structures are increasing.
- f. inflation makes the cost of everything more expensive.

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6. (Points: 10)

Estimate which of the following poses the greatest risk, according to the text book's definition of risk.

- a. A hazard that happens once per decade, causing \$1,000,000 damage.
- b. A hazard that happens once per year, causing \$120,000 damage.
- c. A hazard that happens once per month, causing \$8,000 damage.

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7. (Points: 10)

Which of the following is a natural service function associated with natural hazards?

- a. storm surge flooding coastal fields with salt water
- b. volcanic eruption creating new land
- c. earthquake toppling condemned buildings
- d. seawalls protecting beach houses
- e. flood eroding fertile land

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8. (Points: 10)

The textbook suggests there are five aspects of providing effective warnings of disasters. Select the aspects in each dropdown box to place them in the order they should be dealt with, according to the text:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

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9. (Points: 10)

Which of the following hazards causes the greatest average number of deaths per year in **North America**?

- a. landslides
- b. tornadoes

- c. floods
- d. heat waves
- e. hurricanes

Save Answer

10. (Points: 10)

Why did the Indian Ocean tsunami of 26 December 2004 take so many lives (>200,000)?

- a. most people were killed within 30 minutes after the earthquake and had no warning of a tsunami
- b. warnings issued by the tsunami warning centre in Hawaii were ignored by local officials
- c. lack of adequate communications infrastructure to warn people of the tsunami
- d. most fatalities were people caught in traffic jams trying to leave the coast
- e. there were no physical warning signs, such as rapid withdrawal of sea water from the coast

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11. (Points: 10)

In section 1.4, five concepts are described as "basic to understanding natural hazards". Choose one that **you** feel is most in need of discussion.

- a. Hazards can be predicted through scientific analysis
- b. Risk analysis is an important element of understanding the effects of hazardous processes
- c. Linkages exist among different natural hazards and between hazards and the physical environment.
- d. Damage from natural disasters is increasing.
- e. Damage and loss of life from natural disasters can be minimized.

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12. (Points: 10)

What is the main reason you chose the fundamental concept for discussion that you indicated in the related question?

- a. You don't agree with the statement, or in something said in the text.
- b. You aren't sure you understand something said by the text.
- c. You want to learn more about the issues during this course.

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