

Sample Exam Questions

Below are potential questions on content covered in the Introduction to Environmental Public Health presentation and activities. They can be used in exams, quizzes, or take home assignments.

Selecting Questions

- Consider the difficulty level of your course.
- Identify content covered during lecture and through assignments.

Answer Key

- There are many possible responses to short answer and essay questions. This answer key reflects elements to consider as you evaluate student answers.

Questions Provided

- Short Answer
- Short In-Class Essay

Short Answers (one to two sentences)

Q: Define the practice of Environmental Health.

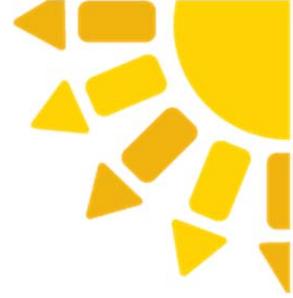
A: The protection of health as it is impacted by the physical, chemical, and biological factors external to a person.

Q: What is the difference between environmental hazard data and exposure data?

A: Environmental hazard data: Data about chemicals or other substances such as carbon monoxide and air pollution in the environment.

Exposure data: Data about the amount of a chemical in a person's body, such as lead in blood.





Short In-class Essays (Two to three short paragraphs)

Q: Describe one example of how the environment affects health.

What do you know about this issue? For example, what are the hazard, health condition, and exposure? Who is most affected or at risk? What isn't known about this issue?

Q: What factors should you consider when assessing an environmental hazard and its effect on health?

A: The risk of developing a specific disease from an environmental hazard depends on a few factors.

- Exposure and risk:
 - the specific contaminant,
 - the level and potency of the contaminant,
 - the route of contamination into the body (e.g., drinking or showering), and
 - the person's individual susceptibility,
 - sensitive/vulnerable groups, such as the elderly, children, and pregnant women who are more likely to suffer ill effects than the rest of the population.
- Demographics: A person's gender, age, race and ethnicity, and socioeconomic factors, such as poverty, can impact the health effects caused by the environment. Although the association between population characteristics and the environment is difficult to measure, some research has shown that these factors do affect a person's exposure to environmental hazards. Racial minorities and low-income populations are more likely to live near hazardous waste sites and in areas with high air pollution and poor housing conditions.
 - Low-income populations, minorities, and children living in inner cities have more emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and deaths resulting from asthma than the general population. In New York, people living within a half mile of toxic land sites were 66% more likely to be hospitalized for asthma, 30% more likely to be poor, and 13% more likely to be a member of a minority group than people outside the half mile radius.