

**Notes to Help in Preparing for Midterm on 10-11-06
Save the Earth!**

You should be able to explain:

1. Why people go to college and what they should gain from the experience and how it will be gained.
2. The characteristics of an educated person and the meaning and examples of the four descriptors discussed in class (learning and social interaction skills; knowledge for lifelong learning and living; uses cognitive (thinking) processes; and takes responsibility as a student, learner, professional and global citizen).
 - a. Awareness of “Bloom’s Taxonomy” as a way to understand the abilities of an educated person. An educated person should have confidence and abilities at all levels of the taxonomy: knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis and evaluation.
 - b. Scholar skills of study techniques, reading effectively, time management, setting goals, acting with integrity, seeking assistance.
3. The relevance and importance of GE. How GE and in particular, this D1 course, fits into your university education.
4. The meaning of “social sciences.”
5. The importance of academic integrity and key points of the SJSU policy on academic integrity (student responsibility; definition of cheating and plagiarism; consequences).
6. How “A” work differs from “C” work.
7. What is an environmental problem and provide examples.
8. Varying views on conservation/protecting the earth and why people might have varying views on the severity of the issues and the best ways to address them.
9. Why Professor Boulding thought we’d do well for the Earth by treating it as a spaceship.
10. What Barry Commoner thought were and were not the issues causing environmental problems. Was he against technological advances? Why might policymakers and others not have paid a lot of attention to him? Why did he mention SJSU in his book *The Closing Circle*? What do his 4 laws of ecology mean (everything is connected to everything else, everything must go somewhere, nature knows best, and there is no such thing as a free lunch)?
11. Relevance and meaning of the equation: Environmental Impact – Population x Affluence x Technology.
12. What sustainable development means.
13. Environmental issues in general in India and China and why there is focus on these issues today. Also, what approaches do their environmental ministers suggest (such as avoiding the practice of polluting first and cleaning up later in China)?
14. What does “ecological footprint” mean? How is it computed? What are its strengths and limitations as a tool for increasing understanding of environmental issues and addressing them?

15. How to appropriately use data (tables, graphs, etc.) and why it is important to carefully scrutinize data to determine if it is meaningful and to make comparisons to that the data is meaningful.
16. Three of the six techniques for addressing environmental problems, pros and cons, examples (command and control, incentives, and market-based approaches). Ways to analyze proposals using principles of economics and good tax policy; linkage analysis; the need to identify unintended consequences and try to alleviate them; social science framework: understanding of cultures, society (income levels, economic development, values, etc.), natural environment, politics, technology, etc.; data; and other considerations that may be relevant.
 - a. What is a polluter pays tax?
 - b. What is a natural resource user tax?
 - c. How taxes and fees can address negative externalities such as pollution.
 - d. How to analyze a tax proposal using the principles of good tax policy.
17. The basics of taxation. Why we have taxes, types, who pays, tax versus fee, examples of environmental taxes.
18. Basics of gasoline conservation: reasons to reduce consumption (reduce pollution, reduce emission of greenhouse gases, reduce reliance on foreign oil; prolong its availability); the reality that a solution to address one reason might not address another reason; understanding of various techniques that have been used or proposed – how they work and how they fall within the 6 categories of techniques for addressing environmental problems.
 - a. Pros and cons of raising either the gasoline excise tax or gas guzzler tax.
 - b. Pros and cons of increasing the CAFÉ standards
 - c. Why some might view that there is a need for the government to step in and changes the “normal” operation of the market for gasoline and cars.
19. The gist of the learning objectives for your major and where the department office is for your major.