

Review Questions - Chapter 24

Answer the following questions using your OWN WORDS!!!! DO NOT copy right out of the book!!! Please attach this handout with your answers. All answers should be hand-written!!

1. Distinguish between solid waste and municipal solid waste. What are the major sources of solid waste in the United States? What happens to municipal solid waste in the United States? What are the major components of U.S. garbage?
2. Distinguish between the high-waste and low-waste approaches to solid waste management. What are the four R's of waste reduction?
3. According to the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, what should be the five goals of solid waste management in order of their importance? According to some scientists, what percentage of solid and hazardous waste produced could be eliminated through a combination of waste reduction, reuse, and recycling (including composting)?
4. List six ways for society to cut waste production and promote environmental sustainability. List eight ways you reduce your output of solid waste.
5. What is a service flow economy? What are four economic advantages of such an economy for businesses and consumers? Describe how Ray Anderson (Individuals Matter section in chapter) is developing a carpet tile service economy business.
6. What is reuse? What are three advantages of using this approach for waste reduction? List five examples of reuse. List five ways to reuse some of the items you buy.
7. Distinguish between primary and secondary recycling. What are the major environmental benefits of recycling? About what percentage of the municipal solid waste produced in the United States is recycled and composted? What percentage do experts believe could be recycled and composted? What is compost, and how is it used as a way to deal with solid waste?
8. Describe how paper is recycled. Distinguish between preconsumer and postconsumer paper waste.
9. What are plastics made from? List three reasons why so few plastics are recycled.
10. List the advantages and disadvantages of recycling. What is life-cycle analysis? What three factors hinder recycling and reuse? List four ways to encourage more recycling and reuse.
11. Describe the major components of a mass-burn incinerator. List the advantages and disadvantages of burning solid (and hazardous waste) in incinerators.
12. Describe the major components of a sanitary landfill. List the advantages and disadvantages of burying solid waste in sanitary landfills.
13. What is hazardous waste? What percentage of the hazardous waste produced in the United States is regulated by laws?
14. Distinguish between bioremediation and phytoremediation. Describe four types of phytoremediation. List the advantages and disadvantages of using phytoremediation for detoxifying hazardous waste.
15. List three ways to reduce your input of hazardous waste into the environment.
16. What are brownfields, and what has been done to help redevelop such sites in the United States?
17. Describe the hazards of lead exposure, and list six ways to prevent and seven ways to control lead poisoning of children.
18. What are dioxins? How are they produced and what harm can they cause? What are two ways to reduce exposure to these hazardous chemicals?
19. How is the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act used to deal with the problem of hazardous wastes in the United States?
20. What is the Superfund Act? Describe the controversy over whether polluters or taxpayers should pay for cleaning up Superfund sites.