

# OREGON ENVIROTHON 2023

## AQUATIC ECOLOGY

TEAM # \_\_\_\_\_

Test Total: \_\_\_\_\_ / 50

**Note to teams:** If you notice that a kit is missing pieces, please notify one of the test administrators.

### Part I: Hands-On Analysis & Aquatic Macroinvertebrates

1. Collect a water sample and analyze it with the test kits. Record the values you find for the following parameters: [5 points]

- a. Temperature: \_\_\_\_\_
- b. pH: \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Dissolved Oxygen: \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Phosphate: \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Nitrate: \_\_\_\_\_

Answers will depend on water sample and macroinvertebrate collected.

2. What is the water quality classification for this sample according to the Oregon Water Quality Standards for Salmon and Steelhead? [1 point]

Class AA

Class A

Class B

3. Identify the macroinvertebrate within the sample dish; include both the common name and the life stage. [2 points]

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Circle the correct words from the underlined choices. [2 points]

The macroinvertebrate in the sample dish could / could not have come from the same source as the water sample because this macroinvertebrate can / cannot tolerate water pollution.

5. Fill in the blanks with the words provided. [4 points]

Stoneflies undergo \_\_\_\_\_ incomplete \_\_\_\_\_ metamorphosis. This means there is a distinct \_\_\_\_\_ larval \_\_\_\_\_ stage, usually called nymphs or naiads, and a distinct \_\_\_\_\_ adult \_\_\_\_\_ stage but no \_\_\_\_\_ pupal \_\_\_\_\_ stage.

larval      complete      incomplete      adult      pupal      aquatic      exoskeleton

\_\_\_\_\_/ 14 points

## Part II: Current Issue – Adapting to a Changing Climate

6. Climate stress is often experienced as the following forms of water stress except: [1 point]

- a) weather events
- b) desalination
- c) floods
- d) drought
- e) sea level rise

7. True or False? Climate change should impact precipitation in Oregon by decreasing winter precipitation and increasing summer precipitation. [1 point]

8. True or False? Although total precipitation is not expected to be significantly impacted by climate change in Oregon, we will have more rain and less snow. [1 point]

9. Fill in the blanks with the words provided. [4 points]

Over the past century, most of Oregon has warmed by about \_\_\_\_\_ two \_\_\_\_\_ degrees. In the coming decades, coastal waters will become more \_\_\_\_\_ acidic \_\_\_\_\_, and streams will be \_\_\_\_\_ warmer \_\_\_\_\_ and have \_\_\_\_\_ lower \_\_\_\_\_ flows in summer.

cooler   alkaline   two   warmer   four   eight   acidic   lower   higher

10. MATCHING [4 points]

Although wetlands are vulnerable to climate change, they play a role in mitigation and adaptation. Put the letter of the role wetlands play in each of the given scenarios.

(V) vulnerable (susceptible to negative impacts of climate change)

(A) adaptation (adjust to new conditions caused by climate change)

- A   a) Wetlands can offset changes in precipitation and snow melt by storing water and reducing the effects of drought and severe storms.
- V   b) Carbon stored in wetland soil may be released to the atmosphere.
- V   c) Loss of habitats suitable for amphibians and wetland invertebrates.
- A   d) Wetlands help keep waters flowing in streams, which helps offset the effects of increases in summer droughts on salmon and other species.

\_\_\_\_ / 11 points

### **Part III: The Water Cycle**

11. Match the following components of the water cycle with the definition on the right. [5 points]:

- |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <u>  e  </u> Condensation       | a. Water movement over the Earth's surface    |
| <u>  d  </u> Evapotranspiration | b. Water movement from atmosphere to soil     |
| <u>  f  </u> Spring             | c. From a solid state into gaseous            |
| <u>  b  </u> Infiltration       | d. Directly from plants into atmosphere       |
| <u>  c  </u> Sublimation        | e. From a gaseous state to a liquid           |
|                                 | f. Flow of groundwater to the Earth's surface |

12. What must happen for water vapor to turn into liquid droplets? [1 point]

- a. It must be agitated.
- b. It must be heated.
- c. It must be cooled.**
- d. It must be energized.

13. Which is the correct order in the water cycle? [1 point]

- a. Precipitation, evaporation, runoff, condensation
- b. Evaporation, run off, precipitation, condensation
- c. Evaporation, condensation, precipitation, runoff**
- d. Runoff, condensation, evaporation, precipitation

\_\_\_\_ / 7 points

#### Part IV: River Systems, Maps

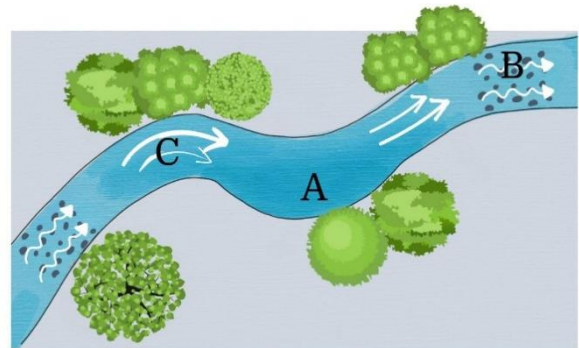
14. Describe three benefits provided by trees in the riparian zone. [3 points]

Any of the following, or other correct answer:

- a. Habitat for wildlife  
Erosion control
- b. Shade for stream  
Water cooling/temp control  
Food for insects
- c.

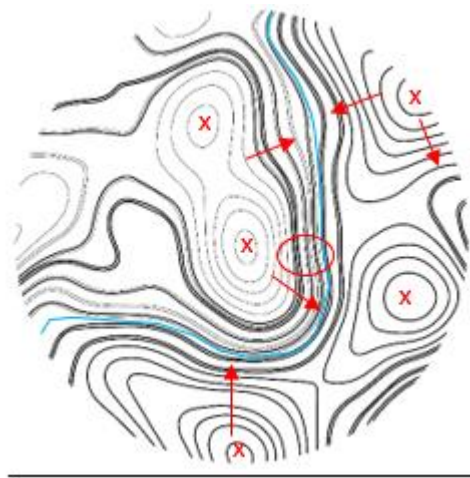
15. Put the correct letter next to the term that describes the part of the river in the diagram to the right. [3 points]

- B   riffle
- A   pool
- C   run



16. On the image below [3 points]:

- a. Place an X on one mountain peak
- b. Circle the area with the steepest slope.
- c. Place an arrow(s) pointing downhill.



\_\_\_ / 9 points

## **Part V: Human Impacts & Food Chains**

17. In a water body experiencing artificial eutrophication, all the following conditions would be found except: [1 point]

- a. an increase in nitrogen
- b. an increase in phosphorus
- c. an increase in algae
- d. an increase in oxygen
- e. a decrease in pH

18 A farmer has livestock, row crops, and Christmas trees. For each commodity, describe one management practice the farmer could take to mitigate potential negative impacts to water quality. [3 points]

- a. Livestock – cover manure piles, keep cows out of creek (There may be other answers.)
- b. Row crops – plant cover crops (There may be other answers.)
- c. Christmas trees – contour planting, inter-row planting (There may be other answers.)

19. Place the letter of the term below on the line of the corresponding description. [3 points]

- \_\_\_b\_\_\_ Barriers to this can eliminate many miles of valuable habitat.
- \_\_\_a\_\_\_ Points of direct contact between streams and roads.
- \_\_\_c\_\_\_ A common, generally less costly stream crossing, often undersized.

- a. stream crossing
- b. fish passage
- c. culvert
- d. resting pool
- e. bridge

21. Identify the trophic level for each of the following organisms found in an aquatic food chain. [2 points, 0.5 point each]

- \_\_\_d\_\_\_ osprey
- \_\_\_a/e\_\_\_ cattail
- \_\_\_c\_\_\_ salmon
- \_\_\_b\_\_\_ caddisfly
- a. Producer
- b. Primary consumer
- c. Secondary consumer
- d. Tertiary consumer
- e. Autotroph

\_\_\_ / 9 points