

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

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## IB ESS

# 1.1 Environmental Value Systems

### Significant Ideas:

Historical events, among other influences, affect the development of environmental value systems and environmental movements.

There is a wide spectrum of environmental value systems each with their own premises and applications.



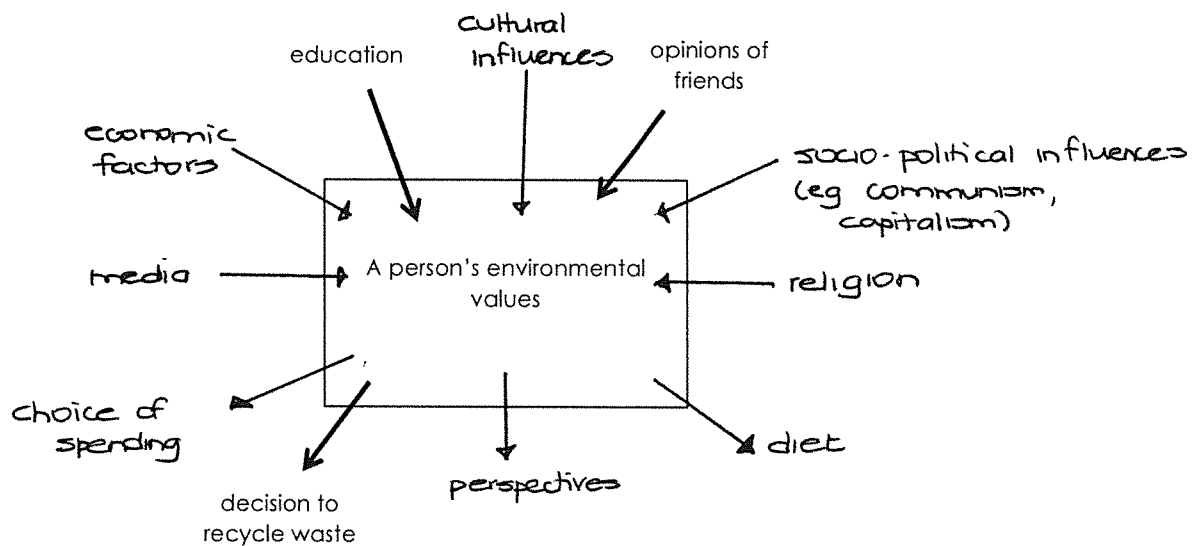
## What is an EVS

1. Define "Environmental Value System"

particular world view or set of paradigms that shapes the way an individual, or groups of people, perceive and evaluate environmental issues

2. Look at the systems diagram for an EVS. Add any additional inputs and outputs that you can think of.

(Hints: think about what things influence a person's knowledge and opinions on the environment.)



3. Define the following value systems

### Ecocentric (nature centred)

- integrates social, spiritual and environmental dimensions into holistic idea
- ecology and nature are central to life, emphasizes a less materialistic approach to life with greater self sufficiency of societies
- prioritizes birights, emphasizes importance of education + self-restraint

### Anthropocentric (people centred)

- humans must sustainably manage the global system through the use of taxes, environmental regulation and legislation
- Debate would be encouraged to reach a consensual, pragmatic approach to solving environmental problems



### Technocentric (technology centred)

- technological developments can provide solutions to environmental problems. Optimistic view of the role humans play in improving humanity. Pro-growth agenda needed for society's improvement.
- Scientific research is encouraged - form policies + understand systems.

4. Summarise the viewpoint of the following types of people

#### Cornucopians

Optimistic, faith in science and technology

Belief that all impediments can be overcome given a will, ingenuity and sufficient resources arising out of growth.

Belief that people can always find a way out of any difficulties

#### Environmental Managers

Belief that economic growth and resource exploitation can

continue assuming - suitable adjustments to taxes, fees

- Improvement in legal rights to minimal level of equality

- compensation for those who experience adverse environmental and/or social effects

#### Deep ecologists

Intrinsic importance of nature for the humanity of man

Ecological (and other natural) laws dictate human morality

Broughts to remain unmolested



The rate of extinctions world-wide is currently very high; the number of species going extinct is currently a lot more than it has been through most of geological time. This high extinction rate is largely a consequence of human activities.

5. Complete the table to summarise the possible viewpoints of the following types of people.

|                             | Ecocentrists  | Anthropocentrists  | Technocentrists   |
|-----------------------------|---|--|---|
| Why is this a problem?      | <p>Endangered species have the right to remain unmolested. Preserving ecology should be central to our humanity. The higher rate is due to increased human activity.</p>  | <p>Humans must manage the planet so that the rate of extinction is no more than in other geological times.</p>                                       | <p>It's not a major problem. Species are going extinct because of pollutants, deforestation etc. but these activities are the result of economic development and this is perhaps more important than conserving some species.</p> |
| What should we do about it? | <p>Change our lifestyle: we need to use fewer harmful chemicals, stop burning fossil fuels etc. We need to accept having fewer luxuries in order to stop polluting the environment and destroying natural habitats.</p> | <p>Activities that threaten species should be more heavily taxed. Debate should be encouraged to reach consensus on strategies for conservation.</p> | <p>Develop technologies to reduce the amount of pollution. Scientific research into more effective breeding programs and more efficient food production.</p>  |



6. Choose **two** of the above environmental value systems and evaluate their implications for the situation stated.

This is a good opportunity to practice the "section B" (from paper 2) essay marking criteria.

- what is an EVS?
- Define ecocentric
- Define technocentric
- Implications of ecocentric value system - more funding for education
  - more funding for conservation
  - establishing more conservation areas eg. West Papua
  - recycling/awareness campaigns - reduce resource use
- Implications of technocentric value system - more funding for research
  - develop alternative fuels and other resources

Conclusion: Both value systems hold a long term view

Technocentric may result in more immediate results

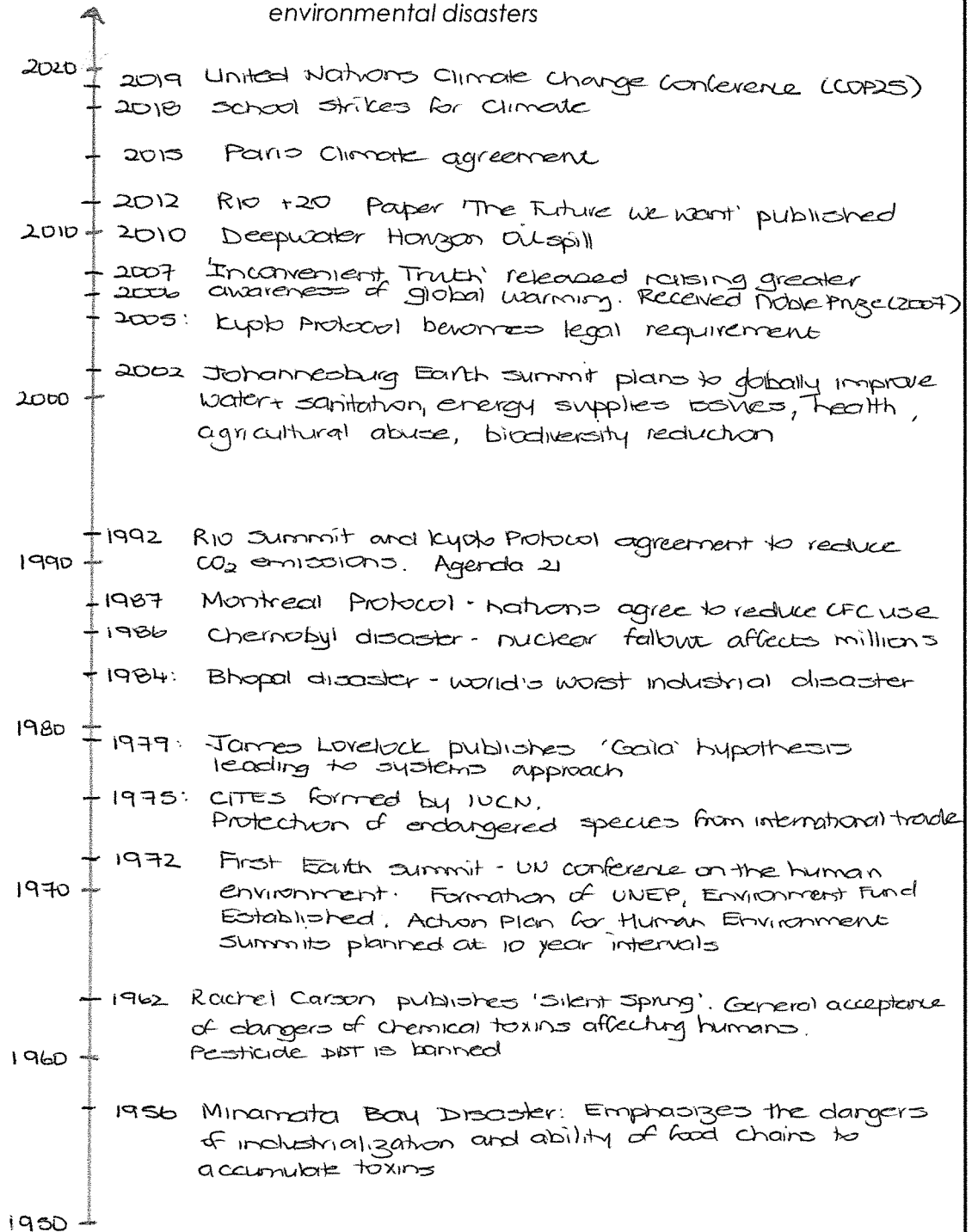
Ecocentric preferred for long term sustainable practices



## Historical Influences on EVSs

1. Draw a timeline to mark some of the major events in history that have influenced environmental value systems. As a minimum, you must include the following (but you are encouraged to add others):

The agricultural revolution, the industrial revolution, the green revolution, founding of Greenpeace, Carson's "Silent Spring" published, at least two major environmental disasters



## What is your EVS?

1. What is your environmental value system? Justify your opinion using examples of environmental systems.

Note: You may have a combination of different viewpoints, this is fine. There is no wrong answer when giving your opinion but you do need to be able to justify it.

Answers will vary

- Define EVS
- Define chosen EVS
- Give example to support
- Alternate EVS with corresponding example
- Conclusion



