

FACULTY OF PUBLIC HEALTH SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Resources on climate change and sustainable development

MODEL ANSWERS TO SPECIFIC PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT QUESTIONS

NB – many questions do not have “answers” but highlight issues for consideration

Resource K2: Sustainable Economy Q1

1. Is there a fundamental tension between improving health and living within the means of the planet?

Suggested list of points that should be covered in an answer

Some would argue that economic growth is essential to improve health in some areas

Others would argue it has been other types of progress that have been associated with economic growth – and health can be improved without growth

Some would argue that there are different types of economic growth and some could support living within the means of the planet

However, absolute de-coupling has not happened so others would argue that an economy not predicated on growth but on different indicators of improvement is most likely to support living within means of the planet

Resource K4: Health Impacts of Climate Change

1. b and d are both true, the others are false.

2. c is the correct answer

Resource K7: Sustainable Food Systems

Answers:

1. B – The farm stage is responsible for 61% (81% if you include deforestation) of all food system GHGE. Transportation, packing and retail combined contribute only 1 – 9% of all food system GHGE.
2. C and D. A – Phosphorous is a non-renewable resource and supplies are expected to be depleted within 50 to 100 years. B – For every 100 calories fed to an animal used to produce food, approximately 7 – 30 are available for human consumption. E – In the UK, approximately 40% of all antibiotics are used for livestock.

Resource A9: Adaptation to Climate Change

Answers

1. A, B, D & E should all be considered. C is less directly relevant, although the incidence of vector borne diseases will have an impact on healthcare needs, so good quality surveillance may assist with service planning in the future.
2. A, C & D: These will all contribute to resilience in terms of health through either direct or indirect means. B is a mitigation action, aimed at reducing emissions. However this could also have positive impacts on health by contributing to reductions in global warming but may also reduce exposure to pollutants created during energy production (e.g. reduced pollution from coal power stations).