

Assessment of sustainability literacy and knowledge of UBT staff

The following is a sample sustainability knowledge test designed for faculty members at UBT. The questions cover a range of sustainability topics relevant to higher education and faculty roles.

Instructions: Please answer the following questions to the best of your ability. This test is designed to assess your understanding of sustainability concepts and their application in an academic setting.

Section 1: Core Sustainability Concepts (Choose the best answer)

1. Which of the following is the most widely accepted definition of sustainable development?
 - a) Economic growth that meets the needs of the present without limiting the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
 - b) The use of resources to improve quality of life.
 - c) Development that focuses solely on environmental protection.
 - d) Business practices that increase profits while minimizing costs.
2. The "three pillars" of sustainability are:
 - a) Environment, economy, and equity.
 - b) Energy, food, and water.
 - c) Ethics, engagement, and education.
 - d) Efficiency, effectiveness, and excellence.
3. What is the primary goal of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?
 - a) To promote global economic growth.

- b) To end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all.
 - c) To reduce carbon emissions.
 - d) To improve international relations.
4. Which of the following best describes "ecological footprint"?
- a) The impact of human activities on the Earth's ecosystems.
 - b) The amount of land needed to grow food.
 - c) The carbon emissions of a particular activity.
 - d) The size of a protected natural area.

Section 2: Sustainability in Higher Education

1. How can faculty members best integrate sustainability into their teaching?
 - a) By including sustainability-related examples and case studies in their lectures.
 - b) By assigning research projects on sustainability topics.
 - c) By encouraging critical thinking about sustainability challenges and solutions.
 - d) All of the above.
2. Which of the following is an example of sustainability research?
 - a) A study on the impact of climate change on coastal communities.
 - b) An analysis of effective teaching methods.
 - c) A historical review of economic development.
 - d) A marketing survey on consumer preferences.
3. What role can universities play in promoting sustainability?

- a) Conducting research to advance sustainability knowledge.
 - b) Educating students to become sustainability leaders.
 - c) Implementing sustainable practices on campus.
 - d) All of the above.
4. How can faculty members contribute to a sustainable campus?
- a) By reducing their energy consumption in their offices.
 - b) By encouraging students to use sustainable transportation.
 - c) By participating in campus sustainability initiatives.
 - d) All of the above.

Section 3: UBT and Sustainability

1. Is UBT currently involved in any sustainability initiatives or programs? If so, can you name one?
(This question requires knowledge of UBT-specific activities)
2. How can UBT faculty members contribute to the realization of Saudi Vision 2030's sustainability goals?
 - a) By aligning their research with the Vision's objectives.
 - b) By equipping students with the knowledge and skills needed for a sustainable future.
 - c) By participating in community engagement activities that promote sustainability.
 - d) All of the above.

Section 4: Application and Critical Thinking

1. Imagine you are teaching a business course. Describe how you could incorporate a case study on a company that successfully implemented sustainable practices. What key concepts would you emphasize?
2. In your opinion, what are the biggest challenges to achieving sustainability in Saudi Arabia, and how can UBT faculty contribute to overcoming them?

Answer Key (Sample Answers):

Section 1:

1. a
2. a
3. b
4. a

Section 2:

1. d
2. a
3. d
4. d

Section 3:

1. (Answer will depend on UBT initiatives)
2. d

Section 4: (Answers will vary; the following are examples)

1. A case study on a company like Unilever could be used. Key concepts to emphasize:
 - Triple bottom line (economic, social, environmental)
 - Stakeholder engagement
 - Life cycle assessment
 - Circular economy principles
 - The business case for sustainability

2. Challenges:

- Water scarcity
- Dependence on fossil fuels
- Rapid urbanization UBT Faculty contributions:
- Research on water conservation and renewable energy
- Developing curricula that promote sustainable urban development
- Educating future leaders about sustainability