

Topic I - Foundations of Environmental Systems and Societies

I.3 Energy and Equilibria

- The Second Law of Thermodynamics states that in any
 - open system, entropy tends to increase spontaneously.
 - open system, entropy tends to decrease spontaneously.
 - isolated system, entropy tends to increase spontaneously.
 - isolated system, entropy tends to decrease spontaneously.
- Which is an example of negative feedback?
 - Loss of vegetation leading to soil erosion leading to further loss of vegetation.
 - A decline in a large predator population after they have eaten most of their prey population.
 - Melting of permafrost in the tundra due to climatic change leading to further release of methane, causing further change.
 - Unsustainable slash and burn agriculture practices in tropical rain forests.
- A lake with a stream flowing into it, but with water lost only by evaporation, is an example of a system which is
 - isolated.
 - stable and closed.
 - unstable and closed.
 - open
- Which of the following contributes most effectively to self-regulation within a system?
 - Rapid transfer of materials
 - Inputs of energy being greater than outputs
 - Negative feedback mechanisms
 - Positive feedback mechanisms

5. A stable ecosystem will be in . . . (I) . . . equilibrium, achieved largely through mechanisms of . . . (II) . . . feedback.

Complete this statement.

- | | (I) | (II) |
|----|--------------|----------|
| A. | Steady state | Positive |
| B. | Static | Negative |
| C. | Steady state | Negative |
| D. | Static | Positive |

6. Consider these statements concerning the flow of energy through ecosystems:

Statement 1: The amount of energy that is available to living things decreases as it is transformed and passed along food chains.

Statement 2: As energy is transformed along food chains, no energy is destroyed.

Which is a correct evaluation of these statements?

- | | Statement 1 | Statement 2 |
|----|---|---|
| A. | Demonstrates the first law of thermodynamics | Demonstrates the second law of thermodynamics |
| B. | Is unrelated to the laws of thermodynamics | Demonstrates the second law of thermodynamics |
| C. | Demonstrates the second law of thermodynamics | Demonstrates the first law of thermodynamics |
| D. | Demonstrates the second law of thermodynamics | is unrelated to the laws of thermodynamics |

7. Which statement best illustrates the second law of thermodynamics?

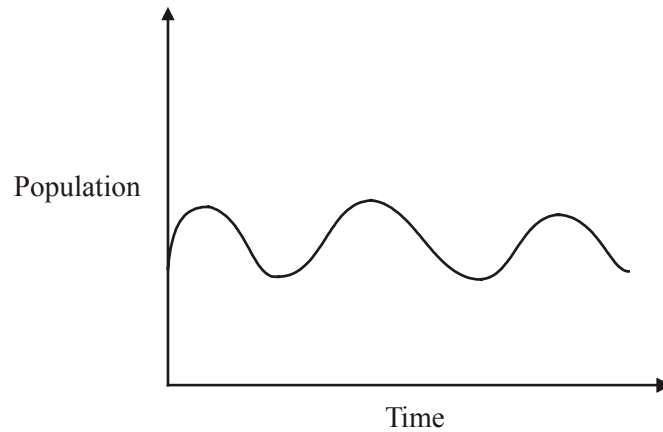
- A. Potential energy increases as energy moves through a system.
- B. The amount of energy is unchanged as matter moves through a system.
- C. Potential energy decreases as energy and matter move through a system.
- D. Energy cannot leave a system.

8. The capacity of a system to self-regulate is generally increased by
- A. the presence of positive feedback.
 - B. the presence of negative feedback.
 - C. low energy inputs in the system.
 - D. energy outputs greater than energy inputs in the system.
9. Which of the following is an essential feature of a system in steady-state equilibrium?
- A. Positive feedback mechanisms
 - B. Negative feedback mechanisms
 - C. Balanced inputs and outputs
 - D. High diversity
10. As disease spreads through a population, numbers fall. As the result of a reduction in contact between individuals, the rate of spread of the disease is reduced. This is followed by a recovery in numbers.

This is an example of

- A. positive feedback
 - B. negative feedback
 - C. demographic transition
 - D. entropy
11. Which statement expresses the second law of thermodynamics?
- A. The amount of energy available to do useful work in a system decreases over time.
 - B. Energy can neither be created nor destroyed.
 - C. Entropy will always decrease spontaneously in a system over time.
 - D. Energy inputs equal energy outputs.

12. The graph below shows how a population changed over a period of time.



Which of the following best describes the regulation process in this system?

- A. Positive feedback
- B. Static equilibrium**
- C. Negative feedback
- D. Transformation

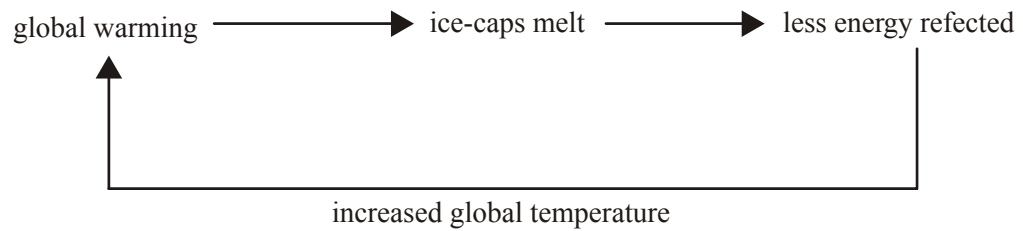
13. Which of the following best describes the result of positive feedback in a system?

- A. The system changing further in the same direction
- B. The system remaining stable
- C. The system changing in the opposite direction**
- D. The system remaining unchanged

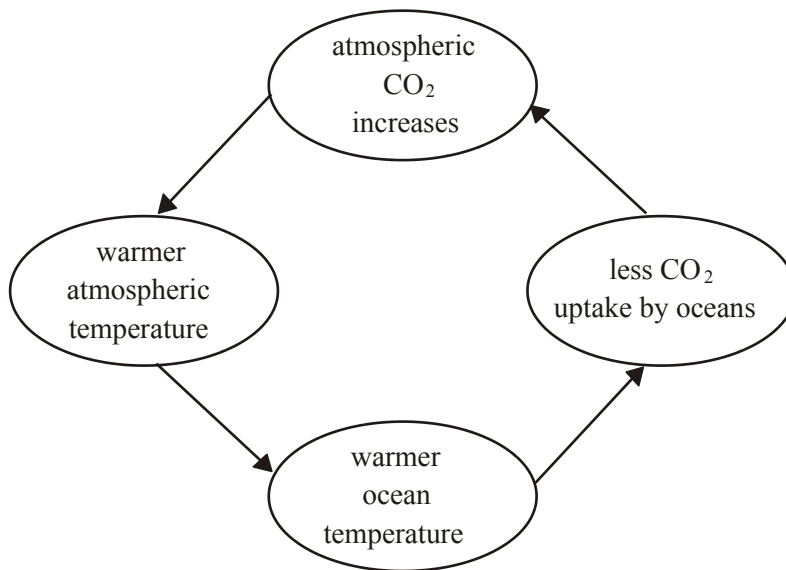
14. Which of the following is an example of negative feedback?

- A. Loss of vegetation, leading to soil erosion, leading to further loss of vegetation
- B. Animals failing to reproduce when food is abundant**
- C. More carbon dioxide favouring plant growth, so plants absorb more carbon dioxide
- D. A population of small mammals in a forest decreasing due to a fire

15. Of what is the diagram below an example?



- A. Negative feedback
- B. Positive feedback**
- C. Steady-state equilibrium
- D. Static equilibrium

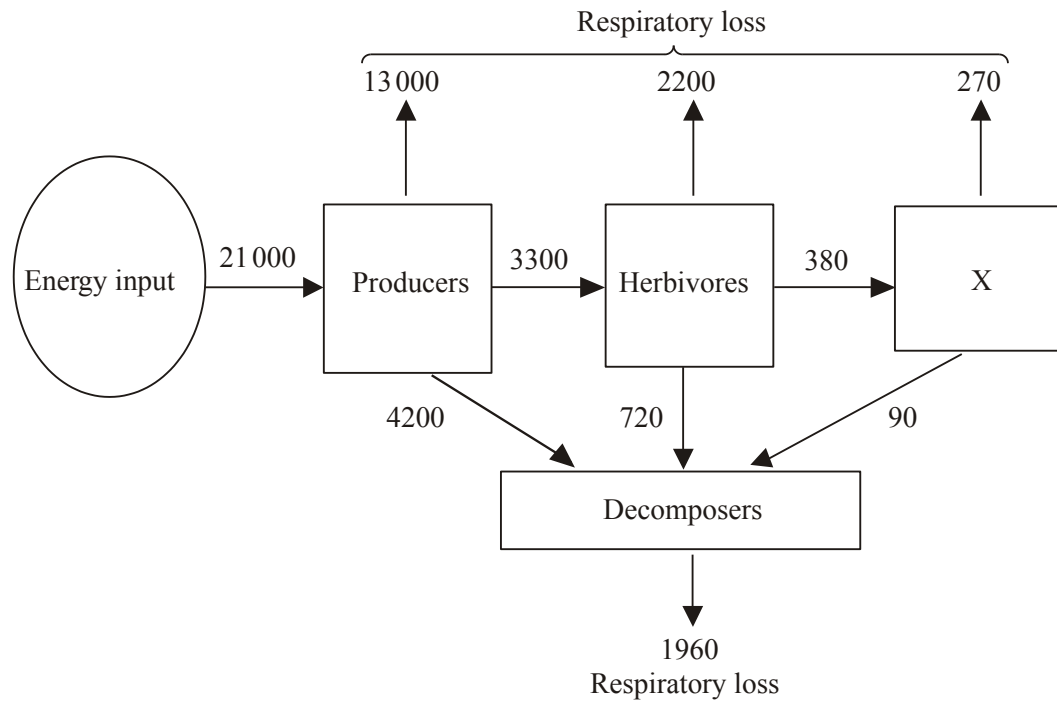


16.

The diagram above is an example of

- A. steady state equilibrium.
- B. positive feedback.**
- C. negative feedback.
- D. static equilibrium.

17.



What are the organisms in X?

- A. Autotrophs
- B. Primary consumers
- C. Secondary consumers
- D. Tertiary consumers