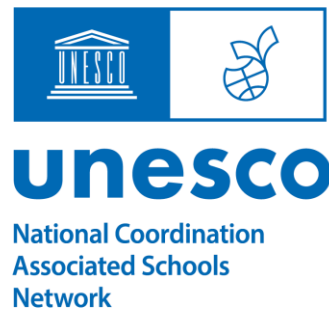The Baltic Sea Project within the UNESCO ASPnet network

THE BALTIC SEA PROJECT WEBQUIZ 2023: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Age group 14–16-year-old students

unesco

National Coordination
Associated Schools
Network

The Baltic Sea Project

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Question 1

There are up to 2,000 species of plankton in the Baltic Sea. The term plankton describes a diverse collection of organisms that live in large bodies of open water and are unable to swim against a current. Plankton plays a very important role in the marine ecosystem: the majority of phytoplankton photosynthesises their own food, while zooplankton preys on phytoplankton transferring energy further in the food web.

What is the largest planktonic organism in the Baltic Sea?
These organisms are increasingly recognised as influential in the marine environment worldwide, but their ecological role is still poorly understood.

    A. Fish larvae
    B. Copepod
    C. Jellyfish

Question 2

A data centre is a physical facility *(see the picture above)* that is used to house digital applications and data. When you use a cloud (like GoogleDrive) it means that your data is not stored in your computer or phone, but in the data centre. When data centres take in electricity to make data calculations they generate heat. This heat is often lost and is called waste heat.
Mark some of the examples where this excess heat is used in countries around the Baltic Sea. There is more than one correct answer.

    A. Heating greenhouses and fish farms in Östersund, Sweden.
    B. Heating swimming pools in Tartu, Estonia.
    C. Heating homes in Helsinki, Finland (data centre below Uspenski Cathedral).

Comment:
Large data centres such as the ones that belong to Google and Facebook tend to be located in industrial zones outside of residential areas, a long way from customers who might want to take the heat, so these solutions are not suitable for them.
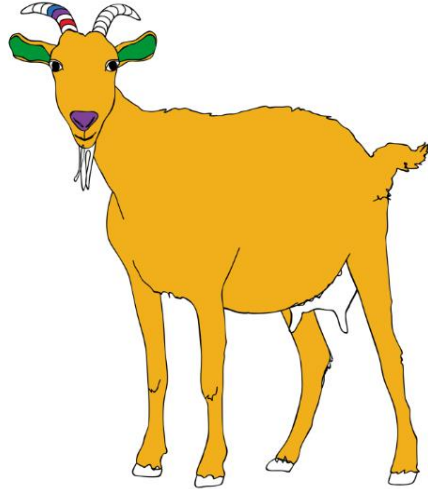*Sources:*
https://www.euronews.com/green/2023/03/16/from-heating-swimming-pools-to-vertical-farms-data-centres-are-proving-useful-but-is-it-en
https://www.ri.se/en/greenhouses-can-be-heated-by-waste-heat-from-data-centres
https://www.pexels.com/photo/black-server-racks-on-a-room-325229/

Question 3

Mondo is an Estonian organization dedicated to addressing global inequality, focusing on development cooperation, humanitarian aid and global education.

Mondo raises donations for their various development projects in 12 lower income countries in a thought-through and creative way. For example, the organisation supports widowed women in the remote village of Kongo in northern Ghana by giving them a goat. Individuals can purchase a goat as a Charity Gift through the organization's website.

What is the purpose behind such a gift?
   A. A widow can sell goat milk for financial assistance.
   B. A widow can sell the babies of a goat when in need of money.
   C. A widow can sell the goat itself when in need of money.
       Source: https://mondo.org.ee/en/pood/goat-for-ghanaian-widow/

Question 4

Biodiversity loss is one of the biggest modern global problems, and it's not just happening far away, but actually around your home. Your garden, the lawn in front of your house or even a small flower box on the balcony can be an important habitat or a retreat for some species.

Look at the pictures below and find a picture corresponding to the following description:

This type of flower bed consists of annual field flowers. The mixes of seeds for this type of flower bed often include some non-indigenous and cultivated species.
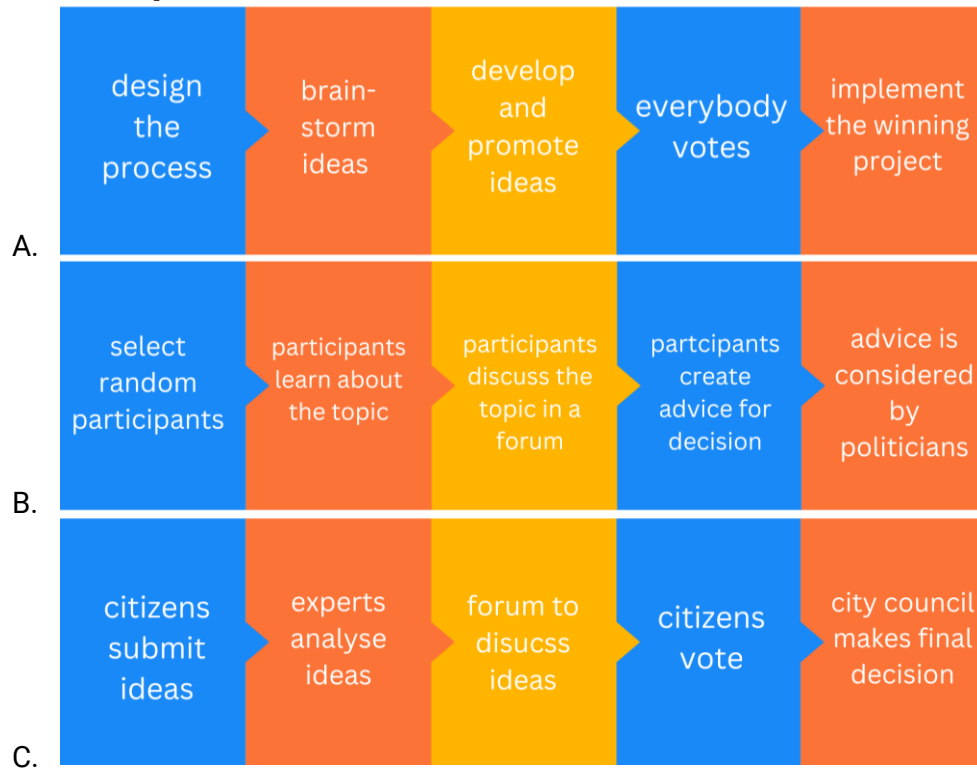***Correct: A***

A.

B.

C.

Comment:
There are many different options to support biodiversity in the garden like keeping a flowering lawn and flowerbeds with natural species or letting weeds like nettle grow freely in some spaces.

Question 5

UN Sustainable Development Goal 16 focuses on peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development. Participatory budgeting is one of the methods to make an institution (i.e. local governement, organisations) more inclusive by allowing a larger community to participate in decision-making. In Estonia, there is also an initiative currently running which helps to introduce participatory budgeting in schools.
Which of these processes IS NOT a form of participatory budgeting?
[CORRECT: B]

A.

| design the process | brain-storm ideas | develop and promote ideas | everybody votes | implement the winning project |

B.

| select random participants | participants learn about the topic | participants discuss the topic in a forum | partcipants create advice for decision | advice is considered by politicians |

C.

| citizens submit ideas | experts analyse ideas | forum to disucss ideas | citizens vote | city council makes final decision |

Comment: The answer is B. This description fits the deliberative democracy method, not participatory budgeting.
https://transparencyschool.org/wp-content/uploads/PB-in-Estonia_Kristina-Reinsalu.pdf
https://demokraatia.rahvaalgatus.ee/eelarve/abi

Question 6

Product labels nowadays provide a lot of different information like ingredients, health risks and, since recently, also environmental impact.
However, half of all "green" labels in the EU offer weak or non-existent verification.
A trustworthy label means:
- production and life cycle of the product is tested in a transparent process by a licensor and an independent institute
- the test results can be viewed publicly or are made available upon request

Which of the following products doesn't have a controlled sustainability label on the packaging?
Correct: A

A.

B.

C.

Question

In the existing food system, the consumer and producer are far away from each other. As a result, the producer does not always know what the consumer wants. On the other hand, the consumer has very limited chances to obtain information about production or to influence the production process.

In Finland, there are more and more initiatives that connect food producers and consumers and produce food more sustainably. You can find information in English about Uudenmaan ruoka Foodhub (https://www.ekompi.net/) and Oma Maa food cooperative (https://www.omamaa.fi/in-english/).

Read the following statements and answer which statement is TRUE only about Oma Maa cooperative.

[CORRECT: C]
   A. There are organised self-pick-up points for ordered produce, for example in the farm, in the reuse centre, in a library, etc.
   B. The products and volumes of products depend on the season.
   C. You can help with the work on the farm.