



Sulitest.org

The sustainability literacy test

BUILDING A
SUSTAINABLE **FUTURE** TOGETHER



Finalizing
V2

Architecture, Tags,
... and how to engage topics / issues experts!

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Architecture: Background



The architecture designed for Sulitest V2 is intended to answer the following criteria: An “ideal” Sustainability Literacy Test ...

1. Measures and improves sustainability literacy worldwide:
“the knowledge, skills, and mindsets that help compel an individual to become deeply committed to building a sustainable future and allow him or her to make informed and effective decisions to this end”
2. Provides (1) internationally recognized & locally relevant assessment, & (2) meaningful information & data.
3. Addresses very diverse audiences: either directly or with “simple” add-ons and changes.
“Countries / cultures / languages”, “students / experts / business”, “engaged / neutral / unengaged”, etc.
4. Evolves through a dynamic collaborative co-learning process to remain highly relevant, used and useful.

The new architecture presented in this document is certainly not perfect, but it does take into account the recommendations of many stakeholders in this process, and it is the one we will work from for Sulitest V2.

Architecture: Overview

From impact/issue based knowledge → systemic approach to knowledge + addition of mindsets and skills

15 Subjects on Knowledge, in 4 themes:

- **Sustainable humanity and ecosystems on planet Earth :**
incl. where are we at from ecological and social perspectives, ...
- **Global and local human-constructed systems to answer people's needs**
incl. social and economic systems, governance, education, water, energy, food, ...
- **Transitions towards sustainability**
incl. initiatives, concepts, examples, how change happens, ...
- **We each have roles to play to create and maintain individual & systemic changes**
incl. awareness of roles & impacts, how to efficiently act to create change, ...



9 Subjects on Skills, in 3 themes:

- **Personal skills:** *creativity, critical thinking / empathy, futures-oriented and strategic thinking / complexity / ...*
- **Working with other:** *networking, communication / Inspire, motivate / multi-culture, participatory / ...*
- **Think & act systemically:** *practice systems thinking / zoom in and out / formal and informal structures / ...*

6 subjects on Mindset

- Respect & care for the community of life
- Humans part of nature, not separate
- Holistic vs. mechanistic approach
- Golden rule
- Belief one can initiate & reinforce change
- Active commitment

Complete architecture (1/2): Knowledge

		Knowledge
Sustainable humanity and ecosystems on planet Earth	1	Ecosystems: Biosphere, global and local ecosystems, interdependent and diverse community of life, life supporting cycles, system closed (materials) / open (energy), etc.
	2	Humanity: Individual human needs, diversity, social fabric, cultures, local and global world, etc.
	3	Sustainability: Definition of Sustainability / Sustainable development
	4	Ecological perspective : where are we at, and why sustainability is both an urgency and an opportunity
	5	Social perspective : where are we at (demography, (in)equalities, gender equality, education, ...), and sustainability being an urgency and an opportunity
Global and local human-constructed systems to answer people's needs	6	Local and global social structures and governance: paradigms; positive results negative impacts; laws; how organisations work; land use; gender equality; etc.
	7	<i>Within local and global social structures and governance, zooms on : Education, and Culture</i>
	8	Local and global economic systems: paradigms; positive results negative impacts; production, distribution, consumption of goods and services; life cycles; value chains; finances; etc.
	9	<i>Within local and global economic system, zooms on : Water, Energy, and Food</i>
Transitions towards sustainability	10	How to start, reinforce, accelerate systems change
	11	Initiatives towards sustainability ... more from institution / int'l level (like UN MDGs, Global Compact, GIEC, GRI, ISO 26000, ESD, etc.)
	12	Concepts, tools, frameworks ... more from individual NGOs or smaller networks (like Cradle to Cradle, Natural Capitalism, The Natural Step, Ecological Footprint, etc.)
	13	Examples and ideas we can learn from: case studies of successes or failures ; technological, strategic, or social innovations
We each have roles to play to create and maintain individual & systemic changes	14	How does one become aware of his own roles and impacts ... whoever "one "is (individual, organisation, south, north, etc.)
	15	How does one efficiently act to create both individual and system change ... whoever "one "is (individual, organisation, south, north, etc.)

↑ Themes ↑

↑ Subjects ↑

Complete architecture (2/2): Knowledge of Skills and Mindset

Knowledge of Skills		
Personal Skills	16	Ability to reflect/self-evaluate alone and in a group; Ability to constantly renew energy; Ability to continuously to learn/develop; Creativity; Critical thinking
	17	Capacity for empathy, compassion, solidarity; Futures-oriented and strategic thinking
	18	Dealing with complexity and uncertainty; Practical problem-solving / management / planning skills
Working with others	19	Networking; Communication skills; building effective coalitions for systemic change
	20	Catalysing / managing change; Inspire a shared vision; Enable/Motivating others to act/participate
	21	Teamwork; Work in multi-cultural and interdisciplinary (diverse) settings; Participatory skills, decision-making; Conflict resolution skills/consensus building; Focus on process, dialogue, listening;
Think & act systemically	22	Ability to put in practice systems thinking concepts; identify and use leverage points
	23	Ability to zoom in and out in time and details, and to keep the desired future and global perspective in mind
	24	Ability to understand formal and informal structures, power dynamics, and interactions

↑ Themes ↑

↑ Subjects ↑

Mindset	
25	Respect and care for the community of life, now and in the future
26	Humans as part of nature and not separate from it
27	Holistic versus mechanistic worldview
28	Golden rule (treat others as you would like them to treat you)
29	Belief one can initiate and reinforce personal and systemic changes towards sustainability
30	Active commitment to solve sustainability problems



The SuLiTest V2 architecture is designed with a systemic perspective which seemed more relevant to a learning environment and the definition chosen for Sustainability Literacy which includes deep commitment: *“the knowledge, skills, and mindsets that help compel an individual to become deeply committed to building a sustainable future and allow him or her to make informed and effective decisions to this end”*.

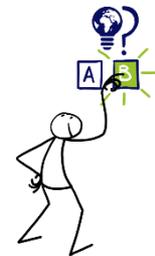
This new architecture is not based on most important impacts, issues, or solutions. AND, it is important that one test is not all about specific issues such as climate change or social inequalities (for example).

Hence this list of tags which allows to further characterise questions (1) create questions database with good balances, (2) be able to have a thematic perspective about each test’s content, and also (3) provide more elements for further interpretation of the results.

This tag list has been strongly influenced by the Sustainability Literacy Test’s version 1 architecture, the Earth Charter, and the UN SDGs.

Tags: List

1. Basic definitions
2. Future generations
3. Innovation, creative leadership, and vision of a sustainable way of life
4. Interconnected challenges
5. Global interdependence and universal responsibility
6. Biodiversity
7. Climate
8. Pollution
9. Energy
10. Material resources
11. Water and sanitation
12. Demography
13. Health and basic needs
14. Human rights
15. Inequality and poverty
16. Discrimination of all sorts
17. Labour practices
18. Wellbeing and social progress
19. Cultural diversity and heritage preservation
20. Formal education and life-long learning
21. Agriculture and feeding human society
22. Cities and human settlements
23. Transportation and infrastructures
24. Housing
25. Tourism
26. Local and global economic systems
27. Global finance and debt
28. Trade (local, international, fair, etc.)
29. Production and consumption systems
30. Taxation systems
31. Corruption
32. Underground economy
33. International Governance and institutions
34. Democratic institutions at all levels
35. Peace and Justice
36. Information and role of mass media
37. Data and how it is used
38. Knowledge and technology exchanges
39. Stakeholder/communities involvement
40. Decision making process
41. Indicators
42. Transparency and accountability
43. Reporting
44. Solidarity and cooperation



Each question should be tagged with 1 to 3 tags.

Engaging a “topic / issue” expert

All subjects and issues find several places in the architecture. A few examples with 2 specific subjects:

Questions on Climate change can be in:

- Sustainable humanity and ecosystems on planet Earth
 - Ecosystems → the cycle of Carbon
 - Ecological perspective, where are we at → stern report, cost of inaction ; or IPCC reports
 - Social perspective → displacement of population
- Global and local human constructed systems to answer people’s needs
 - Economic systems → the oil dependency
 - Zoom on energy → many subjects on oil, coal, renewables, etc.
- Transitions towards sustainability:
 - Int’l initiatives → SDG on climate change
 - Examples → case of Interface (or others) and cutting down CO2 emissions while saving money
- All have roles to play
 - → From individuals to int’l organisations what each can do to mitigate and adapt to climate change

Questions on Ending Poverty can be in:

- Sustainable humanity and ecosystems on planet Earth
 - Humanity → individual human needs
 - Ecological perspective, where are we at → how poverty has an impact on deforestation
 - Social perspective → inequality
- Global and local human constructed systems to answer people’s needs
 - Social structures and governance → immigration and poverty
 - Economic systems → Globalisation and very low salaries
 - Zoom on food → subsistence agriculture
- Transitions towards sustainability:
 - Int’l initiatives → SDG on ending poverty
 - Examples → case of Grameen Bank
- All have roles to play
 - → From individuals to int’l organisations, actions like fair trade products, choice of suppliers, etc