**Chapter 17 Planetary Health – answers**

Self assessment

Question 1 Answer E

Question 2

Answer E. The others all have an impact on a global system which sustains human life and have been demonstrated to be impacted by human actions. The development of the internet is not directly related to global disruption but may have long term indirect influences such as the ability to rapidly affect political systems

Question 3

Answer A. The Paris Agreement is a legally binding international treaty on climate change. It was adopted by 196 Parties at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris, France, on 12 December 2015. It entered into force on 4 November 2016.

Its overarching goal is to hold “the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels” and pursue efforts “to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.”

However, in recent years, world leaders have stressed the need to limit global warming to 1.5°C by the end of this century.

That’s because the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change indicates that crossing the 1.5°C threshold risks unleashing far more severe climate change impacts, including more frequent and severe droughts, heatwaves and rainfall.

Question 4

Answer B

Question 5

Answer B. Net zero emissi9ons aims to reduce the global temperature rise. “Off-setting” or paying for carbon emissions outside of an Organisation’s own chain is often referred to as being“carbon-neutral”.

Short answer questions

Question 1 of 3

You might have included:

1. For people

*More physical activity, better diet, improved mental health, less road trauma, less air pollution, less obesity/heart disease/cancer, more social inclusion...*

1. For the health/care system

*More prevention, care closer to home, more empowered/self care, better use of drugs, better use of information technology, better skill mix, better models of care for long term conditions*

1. For global fairness/social justice

*A fairer distribution of the world’s resources between communities now and inter- generationally*

Question 2 of 3

These reasons include:

* Saving money
* Complying with legislation (in this case the UK Net zero by 2050 law passed in 2019))
* Improving the resilience of the service (the capacity of a system to absorb (sudden and unpredicted) disturbance and still retain function)
* Improving the reputation of the service
* Engaging health professionals and empowering them to be important exemplars to the public
* Direct improvements in health, both immediately and in future health protection and improvement

Question 3 of 3

You might have included:

* Encourage carbon reduced transport to the site through bus routes and cycling
* Procurement policies which reduce transport miles for goods, or purchase goods with reduced packaging or lower environmental impact treatment options
* Reducing disposable equipment
* Reducing drug waste or energy awareness campaigns
* Small reductions in thermostat temperatures
* Increased insulation in walls, roofs, windows and pipework
* Planning more efficient or radically different models of care, especially for long term conditions and including digital care models
* Prioritizing relevant research and development

Any reduction in wasteful, harmful, unneeded or inefficient healthcare will improve sustainability

– best achieved through health promotion, protection and illness prevention.