Score:

Read Carolina's presentation and then answer the following questions.

Hello everyone! Thank you for being here. I'm Carolina Sanchez, and I'd like to start my presentation by telling you an anecdote. After graduating from college with a degree in marine biology, I began working as an environmental field technician for a coastal research center. Now, this was a *good job*—the location was great, the projects were interesting, and I had the chance to collaborate with respected scientists. But after a while, I realized that simply collecting data wasn't enough for me. I wanted to understand why our oceans were changing so quickly and what people—especially young people—could do about it. For that reason, today I want to talk to you about why protecting our oceans should matter to all of us, no matter what career we choose. I'll be discussing three major environmental issues that are affecting marine ecosystems around the world: overfishing, ocean acidification, and coral bleaching. First, let's talk about overfishing. I want you to start by asking yourself, *"Where does the seafood I eat come from?"* Many people enjoy fish, but they don't realize that entire species are being pushed toward extinction because far too many fish are being taken from the oceans. Maybe you enjoy cooking, or maybe you're passionate about nutrition—but either way, responsible choices matter. In my case, I grew up near the coast, and fishing was a big part of my community. When I was younger, older fishermen would tell me how the fish used to be bigger, more abundant, and easier to catch. That really opened my eyes. It made me realize that if earlier generations had practiced more sustainable fishing, many species wouldn't have been threatened today. Overfishing isn't just a scientific issue—it's something regular people can help fix by choosing sustainably caught seafood and spreading awareness. Next, I want to talk about ocean acidification. Ask yourself, *"How do my daily habits affect the planet?"* Even small choices—like how we travel or what energy we use—have consequences. Oceans absorb huge amounts of carbon dioxide, and as CO_2 levels rise, the water becomes more acidic. This may sound distant, but it affects the food chain, the economy, and entire communities. For me personally, studying water samples during my job was an eye-opening experience. I saw how shellfish were struggling to form their shells, and how delicate species were becoming weaker. If global emissions had been reduced earlier, the oceans wouldn't have become so acidic so quickly. That realization motivated me to reduce my own carbon footprint and to educate others. Again, every person can take action: using public transport, saving energy, and supporting clean-energy initiatives. As a final point, let's talk about coral bleaching. Now, think about the places you've visited or would like to visit. Many people dream of seeing colorful coral reefs someday. But rising ocean temperatures cause corals to expel the algae that keep them alive, which leaves them white and fragile. When I first saw a bleached reef during a research dive, I felt shocked—and honestly, heartbroken. Those reefs used to be full of life: fish, turtles, and amazing underwater plants. If coastal pollution had been controlled sooner, many coral reefs would have survived longer. This issue reminded me that caring about nature isn't just about the science—it's also about protecting beauty, culture, and life itself. We can all contribute by reducing waste, choosing reef-safe sunscreens, and supporting conservation organizations. In conclusion, I reflected on the three issues I shared with you today: overfishing, ocean acidification, and coral bleaching. I thought about my experiences, my love for the ocean, and the sense of responsibility I feel toward protecting it. These reflections helped me understand that I didn't just want to study marine life—I wanted to protect it and inspire others to do the same. That's why I shifted my career path toward environmental education and advocacy. By choosing this direction, I can help people understand how their everyday decisions affect our oceans, and I can encourage them to make positive changes. This decision truly changed my life! And I hope that you, too, will feel inspired to take small but meaningful actions. When we protect our oceans, we protect our future. Thank you so much for listening.

1. What did the speaker study in college?
A. She studied environmental engineering because she liked technology.
B. She studied marine biology because she was interested in ocean life.
C. She studied chemistry because she enjoyed working in laboratories.
D. She studied geology because she wanted to analyze rock formations.

2. Why did the speaker decide to shift the direction of his career?
A. She realized he wanted a job that allowed more travel and teamwork.
B. She discovered he preferred teaching science rather than collecting data.
C. She understood he wanted to explore why oceans were changing so quickly.
D. She felt he needed a job that offered different skills and responsibilities.

3. Which environmental issue did the speaker introduce first?
A. Coral bleaching and its effects on reef ecosystems.
B. Ocean acidification and its impact on marine organisms.
C. Overfishing and the decline of fish populations.
D. Water pollution and its influence on coastal habitats.

4. What example did the speaker mention to illustrate overfishing?
A. She described how fish were becoming smaller and harder to find.
B. She explained how fishermen had noticed fewer boats in the area.
C. She talked about how fishing equipment was changing every year.
D. She mentioned how markets were selling more imported seafood.

5. What main factor contributes to ocean acidification?
A. Large amounts of plastic waste entering the water.
B. High levels of carbon dioxide absorbed by the ocean.
C. Constant chemical spills from coastal factories.
D. Increased global temperatures caused by heatwaves.

6. What experience helped the speaker understand ocean acidification more deeply?
A. Conducting research on algae growth near coral reefs.
B. Observing shellfish struggling to form their shells in samples.
C. Interviewing local fishermen about their daily challenges.
D. Reading articles about climate change in scientific journals.

7. What happens to corals during coral bleaching?
A. They lose their algae and turn white due to stress.
B. They move into deeper water to avoid hot temperatures.
C. They grow faster because of increased sunlight exposure.
D. They attract more fish because they become brighter.

8. How did the speaker feel the first time he saw a bleached coral reef?
A. She felt motivated to study more but also slightly confused.
B. She felt amazed by the colors but unsure about the cause.
C. She felt heartbroken by the loss and worried about the future.
D. She felt indifferent because he had seen similar things before.

9. What action does the speaker suggest to help protect coral reefs?
A. Choosing eco-friendly sunscreen when swimming near reefs.
B. Buying seafood from local markets instead of large stores.
C. Visiting coastal areas less often to reduce tourism pressure.
D. Supporting fishing companies that use modern equipment.

10. What career path did the speaker eventually choose?
A. She became a marine photographer focusing on ocean wildlife.
B. She moved into environmental education and ocean advocacy.
C. She returned to field research to continue collecting samples.
D. She started working for a conservation group as a diver.