HERPETOLOGY (B/C) SAMPLE TOURNAMENT

Station A:

1. To which family does this specimen belong?

2. A distinctive feature of this creature is its retention of a key larval feature as an adult. Name this noticeable larval feature.

3. How many toes are found on each foot?

4. When does this animal usually feed? (day or night)

5. How might you distinguish a specimen from cool oxygenated water and a specimen from warm muddy or foul water?

Station B:

6. To which family and genus does this specimen belong?

7. This is the most commonly encountered snake in many parts of its range. What is this organism's range?

8. What does this animal eat?

9. Where is this snake likely to be found in its environment?

10. How are the young born? (hatched from eggs externally or born alive)

Station C:

11. To which family does this specimen belong?
12. What distinctive feature very prominent in the males places these animals in this family?
13. Where in the environment are these animals most comfortable?
14. What do these animals eat?
15. What external feature can these animals change in response to temperature, humidity, emotion or activity?

Station D:

16. To which order and family does this specimen belong?

17. How is this animal recognized and distinguished from the other family of large scaled creatures?

18. What type of sound does the adult make?

19. How does this animal assist the ecology of its environment during times of drought?

20. What are the two main activities of humans that have greatly reduced the numbers of these animals in many areas?

Station E:

21. To which family does this specimen belong?

22. When and where do these animals breed?

23. This specimen as an adult can often be found wandering in the meadows. When pursued on land, how does it flee?

24. When are these animals most active?

25. What do members of this family of animals eat?

Station F:

26. To which family does this specimen belong?
27. The common name of this organism describes what distinctive feature of this animal?
28. How is this type of animal economically important?
29. What is the temperament of the members of this family?
30. How does the length of the tail of these turtles compare with most other turtles?

Station G:

31. To which family does this specimen belong?
32. Warm spring rains stimulate these creatures to migrate in large numbers to what breeding site?
33. Where in the environment are the adults typically found?
34. What feature generated the nickname for these kinds of animals?
35. How has acid rain affected the breeding of these animals in the Northeast U.S and Canada?

Station H:

36. To which family is the specimen assigned?

37. To which genus does this animal now belong?

38. Where do these animals live?

39. The appearance of the sound of these animals is responsible for their nickname. When do they usually begin to sing?

40. What adaptations have these animals evolved to enhance their ability to climb?

Station I

Several of these frogs are seen on a highway.

41. These frogs have instinctively returned to their natural breeding site which is now replaced by this highway. What type of habitat was destroyed by the construction of this highway?

42. How many and what chambers will be found in the hearts of these frogs?

43. How will this new highway probably affect the future of these frogs?

44. To which family do these frogs belong?

45. What is the name of the larval form of these animals?

Station J:

46. To which family and genus does this animal belong?

47. What external features makes these snakes distinctive and easily recognized?

48. The venom of these snakes is considered poisonous because it destroys what type of body tissue?

49. The venom of some types of snakes is used to prepare pain killers. What type of body tissue would the toxin of this venom affect in order to relieve pain?

50. What distinctive noise does this animal produce?

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ANSWER KEY

STATION A (Mudpuppy) Amphibia Caudata

1. Proteidae
2. red feather-like gills
3. 4 toes
4. night "nocturnal"
5. short gills – cool oxygenated water long bushy gills – warm muddy or foul water

STATION B (Common Garter Snake) Reptilia Squamata Serpentes (Ophidia)

6. Colubridae Thamnophis
7. Atlantic to Pacific except deserts
8. frogs, toads, salamanders, earthworms
9. moist vegetation anywhere in nature
10. born alive

STATION C (Green Anole) Reptilia Squamata Lacertilian or Sauria

11. Polychridae
12. reddish throat fan
13. in trees – arboreal
14. mainly insects and spiders
15. color

STATION D (American Alligator) Reptilia Crocodylia

16. Crocodylia Alligatoridae
17. broad and rounded snout
18. bellowing roar
19. digs deep holes (dens) that provide water
20. hunting or poaching, altering their habitat

STATION E (Northern Leopard Frog) Amphibia Anura (Salientia)

21. Ranidae
22. spring (March – June) along ponds
23. zig zag leaps
24. night – nocturnal
25. insects, spiders & crustaceans " voracious carnivores"

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ANSWER KEY

STATION F (Snapping Turtle) Reptilia Testudines (Chelonia)

26. Chelyridae
27. powerful hooked jaws
28. delicacy for soups and stews
29. short tempered and strike viciously
30. long tail

STATION G (Spotted Salamander) Amphibia Caudata (Urodela)

31. Ambystomatidae
32. woodland ponds, ponds
33. land – terrestrial
34. lives underground like moles or yellow spots (specimen)
35. eggs can't develop because of increased acidity

STATION H (Spring Peeper) Amphibia Anura (Salientia)

36. Hylidae
37. Pseudacris
38. swamps, marshes
39. spring
40. adhesive pads on toes and cartilage between the last two bones on the toes

STATION I (Bullfrogs) Amphibia Anura (Salientia)

41. ponds or lakes
42. three – 2 atria and 1 ventricle
43. limits ability to live and reproduce
44. Ranidae
45. tadpole

STATION J (Diamondback Rattlesnake) Reptilia Squamata Serpentes (Ophidia)

46. Viperidae *Crotalus*
47. diamond pattern and rattles on the tail
48. blood tissue
49. nerve tissue
50. rattling noise