**Soil Test Study Guide**

**Please write your answers in correct numerical order on separate paper. Be sure to number each question. You do not have to re-write the questions!**

**A proficient student can explain the process of soil formation and describe soil properties.**

1. What is soil?
2. What are the horizons of soil in order, what are they made of and what might you see in them?
3. What are the percentages of water, air, organic materials and rocks/minerals found in healthy soil?
4. What are soil decomposers, what do they do and give specific examples of soil decomposers?
5. What is soil fertility and what affects soil fertility?
6. What is loam and what is it made of?
7. How do living organisms help the soil and give specific examples of living organisms?
8. What is humus and how is it formed?
9. What are the five properties of soil and explain what each one is?
10. What is a soil profile?
11. How is soil formed? Describe the steps that soil horizons form, in order.
12. What does most of the work of mixing humus with other materials in soil?
13. Why do garden plants usually do better in topsoil than in subsoil?
14. Why won’t plants grow well in soil that is mostly clay or mostly sand?
15. How do scientists classify soil into major groups?

**Proficient students can explain how humans affect the quality of soil and how soil quality affects human health.**

1. What is soil stewardship?
2. What is soil conservation?
3. What is conservation plowing?
4. What is contour plowing?
5. What are two ways farmers can prevent nutrient depletion?
6. What is crop rotation?
7. What is terracing?
8. What is vegetative cover?
9. How do the following terms apply to soil stewardship: pollution, wind breaks, responsible land use?
10. Why is soil one of Earth’s most valuable resources?
11. Who was George Washington Carver, when it comes to soil?
12. What was the Dust Bowl?