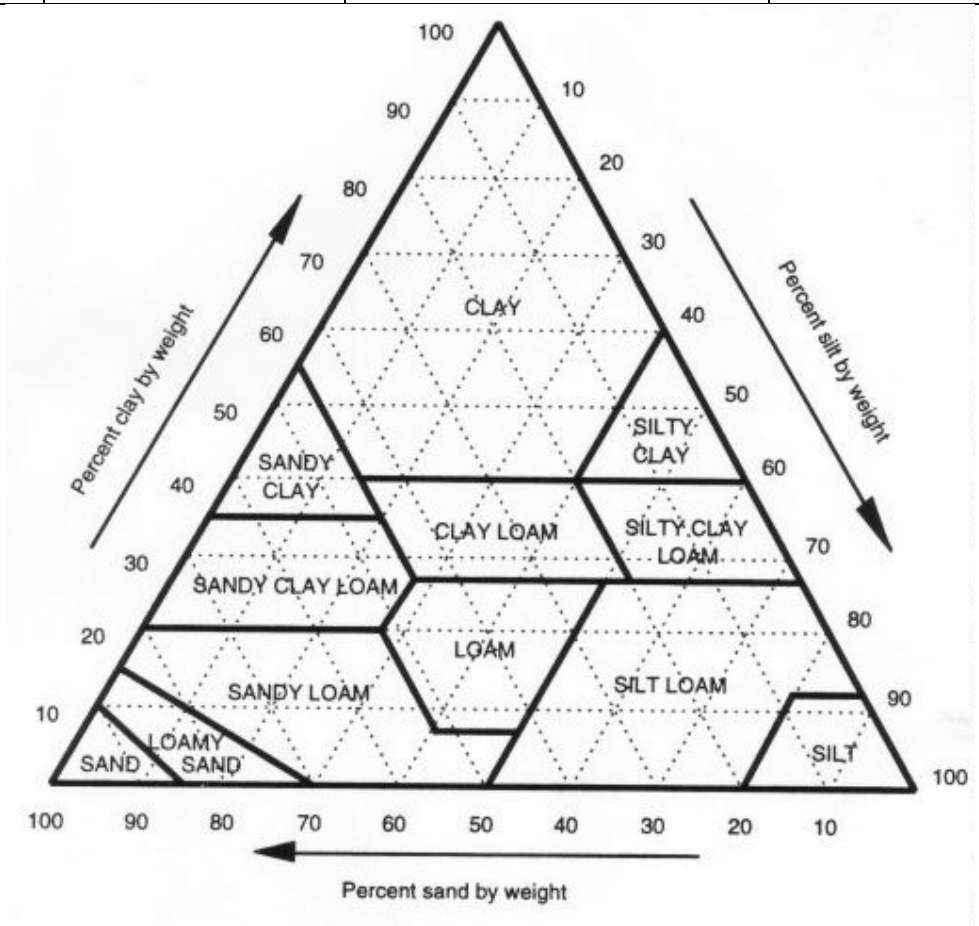
Envirothon Soils Ecostation Example Questions

1. Observe the soil profile in the pit and fill in the blank spots in the following profile description: (Use the Munsell color book notation and select textures from the provided texture triangle)

Horizon name	Bottom Depth (inches)	Munsell Color	Texture



2. What is the parent material of the soil in this pit?

    a. ___ Glaciofluvial
    b. ___Basal Till
    c. ___Eolian
    d. ___Alluvium
    e. ___Ablation Till

3. At what depth is the seasonal high water table in this soil?

4. At what depth does this soil have the highest available water holding capacity?

5. At what depth does this soil have the highest soil carbon content?

Use the provided maps from the Web Soil Survey to answer the following questions:

6. This soil pit is located on a soil map unit with the symbol 245C. What is the soil map unit name?

    a. Windsor loamy sand, 15 to 25 percent slopes
    b. Hinckley loamy sand, 8 to 15 percent slopes
    c. Paxton fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, extremely stony
    d. Sudbury fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes

7. What is the parent material of this soil type?

    a. Glacial till
    b. Glaciofluvial
    c. Lacustrine
    d. Alluvium

8. What soil characteristics would be limiting to agriculture at this site?

    a. Steep slope
    b. Shallow depth to a limiting layer
    c. Excessive stones and boulders
    d. Low available water holding capacity
    e. This would be considered a prime agricultural soil – there are no limitations