

Earth Science Interview Questions And Answers Guide.



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Earth Science Job Interview Preparation Guide.

Question # 1

Which will most likely form when a steep mountain stream flows abruptly onto a flat plain:

Answer:-

1. delta
2. alluvial fan
3. braided stream
4. mid-channel bar

Answer: 2

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Question # 2

When, in the geologic column, did dinosaurs become extinct:

Answer:-

1. at the Cretaceous-Tertiary boundary
2. at the Jurassic-Cretaceous boundary
3. at the Triassic-Jurassic boundary
4. at the Permian-Triassic boundary

Answer: 1

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Question # 3

When, in the geological time scale, did dinosaurs first appear:

Answer:-

1. Jurassic
2. Triassic
3. Cretaceous
4. Tertiary

Answer: 2

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Question # 4

These clouds are named for their smooth, round, lens-like shape and commonly form over mountains:

Answer:-

1. lenticular
2. contrails
3. stratocumulus
4. mackerel

Answer: 1

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Question # 5

It is estimated that the temperature of the Earth's core is:

Answer:-

1. as hot as the surface of the sun
2. much hotter than the surface of the sun
3. much cooler than the surface of the sun
4. it cannot be estimated

Answer: 1

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Question # 6

Which of the following would give the best indication of how a rock was formed:

Answer:-

1. structure and color
2. mineralogy and texture
3. structure and weight
4. shape and size

Answer: 2

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Question # 7

In determining the distance of an earthquake to its epicenter, which of the following is the most useful tool:

Answer:-

1. intensity of P-wave
2. intensity of S-wave
3. difference in intensity between P and S-waves
4. time interval between P-wave and S-wave arrival

Answer: 4

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Question # 8

Which of the following is primarily involved in the movement of a glacier:

Answer:-

1. running water
2. ambient temperature
3. topology
4. gravity

Answer: 4

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Question # 9

Of the following, which are clouds formed at the highest altitude:

Answer:-

1. altocumulus
2. altostratus
3. cirrocumulus
4. nimbostratus

Answer: 3

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Question # 10

The Arctic Circle lies at which of the following latitudes:

Answer:-

1. 66 ½°North
2. 90°North
3. 66 ½°South
4. 90°South

Answer: 3

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Question # 11

The Fujita Scale is used to classify intensities of:

Answer:-

1. hurricanes
2. tornadoes
3. earthquakes
4. volcanic eruptions

Answer: B

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Question # 12

The ability of rock or soil to transmit water is called its:

Answer:-

1. permeability
2. porosity
3. viscosity
4. wetability



Answer: A

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Question # 13

Which of the following is NOT likely to have been formed by glaciers:

Answer:-

1. arete
2. hanging valley
3. fjord
4. dike

Answer: D

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Question # 14

A glacier that has neither advanced nor retreated for many years deposits which of the following:

Answer:-

1. terminal moraine
2. end moraine
3. ground moraine
4. medial moraine

Answer: B

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Question # 15

A high pressure center is associated with what kind of weather:

Answer:-

1. warm and dry
2. warm and wet
3. cool and dry
4. cool and wet

Answer: C

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Question # 16

Which is the best reason for proposing that a boulder lying in an area that was once glaciated is an erratic:

Answer:-

1. it is of a different composition than the underlying rock
2. it is rounded and worn
3. it is larger than any surrounding rocks
4. it is located near a glacial lake

Answer: A

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Question # 17

Which of the following latitudes and dates would coincide with the longest duration of insolation:

Answer:-

1. 23 1/2° South on September 21
2. 50° North on June 21
3. 50° South on March 21
4. 0° on June 21

Answer: B

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Question # 18

A famous downslope wind that occurs in North America on the East side of the Rocky Mountains is called a:

Answer:-

1. sirocco
2. mistral
3. foehn
4. chinook

Answer: D

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Question # 19

A tropical storm will be declared a hurricane when:

Answer:-



1. there is evidence of eye formation
2. wind speeds reach 64 mph
3. wind gusts are in excess of 74 mph
4. there is evidence of eye formation and sustained wind speeds of 74 mph

Answer: D

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Question # 20

Which is NOT true about the concentration of methane gas in the atmosphere:

Answer:-

1. it is generated by biological activity related to rice cultivation
2. it is generated as a byproduct of the digestive processes of cattle
3. it is generated as a byproduct of refrigerants and aerosols
4. it has an atmospheric lifetime of about 10 years

Answer: C

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Question # 21

What is the name for a roughly circular coral reef enclosing a shallow lagoon:

Answer:-

1. barrier reef
2. fringing reef
3. shallow reef
4. atoll

Answer: D

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Question # 22

The physical property used in mineral identification for the way a minerals surface reflects light is called:

Answer:-

1. streak
2. polish
3. refractivity
4. luster

Answer: D

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Question # 23

A low-gradient stream would most likely form a:

Answer:-

1. V-shaped valley
2. waterfall
3. meander
4. straight channel

Answer: C

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Question # 24

The angle of insolation on the Earth's surface is most direct at which latitude:

Answer:-

1. 0o
2. 90o North or South
3. 66 ½o North or South
4. 23 ½o North or South

Answer: A

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Question # 25

Ground depressions in areas of Karst topography are called:

Answer:-

1. kettles
2. grabens
3. sinkholes
4. cirques

Answer: C

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Question # 26



Steep-sided volcanoes such as Mounts Rainier, Hood, and Fuji, are examples of what kind of volcanoes:

Answer:-

1. stratovolcanoes
2. tephra cone volcanoes
3. shield volcanoes
4. tower volcanoes

Answer: A

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Question # 27

Which of the following minerals best illustrates the property of cleavage:

Answer:-

1. quartz
2. chrysotile
3. pyrite
4. mica

Answer: D

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Question # 28

Which of the following is an example of a metamorphic rock:

Answer:-

1. gneiss
2. granite
3. sandstone
4. limestone

Answer: A

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Question # 29

Order the following minerals from the hardest to the softest:

Answer:-

Topaz; Corundum; Quartz; Fluorite

Answer: Corundum; Topaz; Quartz; Fluorite

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Question # 30

In what layer of the Earth's atmosphere does most of our weather occur?

Answer:-

Troposphere

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Question # 31

Name 2 places on earth where continental glaciers exist:

Answer:-

Antarctica And Greenland

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Question # 32

This mineral has the nickname "bloodstone" because it gives a deep red color on a streak test. What is its chemical formula?

Answer:-

Fe₂O₃

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Question # 33

During which equinoxes are day and night of equal length around the world:

Answer:-

Autumnal And Vernal Equinoxes

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Question # 34

Magma that reached the Earth's surface is called:

Answer:-



Lava

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Question # 35

On the day of the summer solstice in the Southern Hemisphere, the sun can be seen directly overhead at what location around the globe?

Answer:-

Tropic Of Capricorn

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Question # 36

A solid compound whose internal structural pattern is expressed as plane faces that can be seen with the unaided eye is generally known as a:

Answer:-

Crystal

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Question # 37

What is the name for the margin where two plates in the lithosphere slide past each other?

Answer:-

Transform Fault Margins

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Question # 38

As glaciers erode the surface over which they move, sets of parallel linear grooves are sometime worn into the rock surface. These grooves are called:

Answer:-

Striations

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Question # 39

What common type of paper contains substantial amounts of corundum and magnetite?

Answer:-

Sand Paper

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Question # 40

What is the only common mineral to be strongly magnetic other than magnetite:

Answer:-

Pyrrhotite

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Question # 41

Which equinox marks the moment when fall begins in the Northern Hemisphere?

Answer:-

Autumnal Equinox

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Question # 42

Give the common name of the historic mineral that was the original source of radium and the first substance in which helium was discovered on earth:

Answer:-

Pitchblende

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Question # 43

The name of this mineral is derived from the Latin word which means "to flow". One of its major uses is as a flux to help melt iron ore. What is its name?

Answer:-

Fluorite

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Question # 44

What is the name given to the region of the Earth's mantle located from about 75 to 300 kilometers below the surface, where rocks have little strength?

Answer:-



Asthenosphere

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Question # 45

What is the term for groundwater emerging naturally at the ground surface, where the water table intersects the surface:

Answer:-

Spring

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Question # 46

What is the professional name for the person who studies fossils?

Answer:-

Paleontologist

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Question # 47

What is the upper surface of the saturated zone of groundwater called:

Answer:-

The Water Table

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Question # 48

What kind of rocks are formed by the lithification of sediments:

Answer:-

Sedimentary Rocks

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Question # 49

What is the fossilized resin of ancient trees which forms through the natural polymerization of sap:

Answer:-

Amber

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Question # 50

What is the common name for the test that gives the hardness of the material by the size of an indent left in it by a standard steel ball?

Answer:-

The Brinell Test

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Question # 51

What are the names of the tides that occur when the sun's tidal bulges and the moon's tidal bulges are at right angles to each other?

Answer:-

Neap Tides

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Question # 52

A limestone cave that is open to the sky or whose roof has collapsed is now called a:

Answer:-

Sinkhole

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Question # 53

In 1962, Harry Hess at Princeton University hypothesized that the topography of the seafloor could be explained if the seafloor were moving sideways away from the oceanic ridge. This came to be called the Hess hypothesis of:

Answer:-

Seafloor Spreading

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