

Test: Earth Science NCE - MS

Question 1 of 75

Which of the following is a major area where volcanic eruptions occur?

- A) Torrents of Fire
- B) Basin of Fire
- C) Pit of Fire
- D) Ring of Fire

Question 2 of 75

What color is amethyst?

- A) Red
- B) Green
- C) Blue
- D) Purple

Question 3 of 75

What rock was used by ancient humans to make the oldest known arrowheads?

- A) Granite
- B) Sandstone
- C) Flint
- D) Marble

Question 4 of 75

What periods of colder global temperatures and recurring glacial expansions have occurred at least five times in earth's history?

- A) Frozen Ages
- B) Snowball Ages
- C) Winters
- D) Ice Age

Question 5 of 75

Which of these devices is used to detect earthquakes?

- A) Ruler
- B) Thermometer
- C) Barometer
- D) Seismometer

Question 6 of 75

Which of the following rocks made of calcium carbonate would you find in a classroom?

- A) Limestone
- B) Chalk
- C) Chert
- D) Flint

Question 7 of 75

The Grand Canyon lies in which of these U.S. States?

- A) Arizona
- B) California
- C) New Mexico
- D) Utah

Question 8 of 75

Which of these layers of the Earth is the thinnest?

- A) Mantle
- B) Outer core
- C) Inner Core
- D) Crust

Question 9 of 75

Which of these ages of the Earth is most accurate?

- A) 4 billion years
- B) 2 trillion years
- C) 3 million years
- D) 6,000 years

Question 10 of 75

What percentage of the Earth is covered in water?

- A) 50%
- B) 80%
- C) 70%
- D) 60%

Question 11 of 75

Which element is most abundant in the Earth's crust?

- A) Magnesium
- B) Sodium
- C) Oxygen
- D) Silicon

Question 12 of 75

Which of these shapes best describes the Earth?

- A) Flat disc
- B) Torus
- C) Sphere
- D) Spheroid

Question 13 of 75

Which of the following estimates of the earth's circumference is the closest?

- A) 40,000km
- B) 400km
- C) 400,000km
- D) 4,000km

Question 14 of 75

Which form of visible aerosol consists of tiny water droplets and obscures vision to less than one kilometer?

- A) Smoke
- B) Fog
- C) Mist
- D) Haze

Question 15 of 75

What black volcanic glass forms from the rapid cooling of lava?

- A) Pumice
- B) Scoria
- C) Granite
- D) Obsidian

Question 16 of 75

What Yellowstone Park geyser is named for its predictable eruptions?

- A) Young Faithful
- B) Old Faithful
- C) Old Reliable
- D) Young Reliable

Question 17 of 75

What mineral deposits project down from the roofs of caves?

- A) Statacites
- B) Statamites
- C) Stalagmites
- D) Stalactites

Question 18 of 75

Which of the following is a liquid fossil fuel?

- A) Solar
- B) Petroleum
- C) Coal
- D) Wind

Question 19 of 75

Which of the following is the hardest material?

- A) Talc
- B) Copper
- C) Corundum
- D) Diamond

Question 20 of 75

Which of the following periods was NOT in the Mesozoic Era, during which reptiles like dinosaurs were the dominant life form?

- A) Cretaceous
- B) Silurian
- C) Jurassic
- D) Triassic

Question 21 of 75

What name is given to an event caused by a lack of rainwater?

- A) Wildfire
- B) Drought
- C) Thunderstorms
- D) Tsunami

Question 22 of 75

What substance is expelled from volcanoes during an eruption?

- A) Pewter
- B) Lava
- C) Ash
- D) Magma

Question 23 of 75

What phenomenon is responsible for currents and storms spinning counterclockwise in the Northern hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern hemisphere?

- A) Tropical cyclone
- B) Coriolis effect
- C) Low pressure system
- D) El Nino

Question 24 of 75

What compound is commonly referred to as fool's gold?

- A) Kingite
- B) Pyrite
- C) Conite
- D) Kainite

Question 25 of 75

Fibers of what material were previously used as fireproofing but cause diseases like mesothelioma?

- A) Concrete
- B) Asbestos
- C) Iron
- D) Quartz

Question 26 of 75

What large bodies of moving ice can have icebergs break off from them?

- A) Penitents
- B) Fans
- C) Glaciers
- D) Martian volcanoes

Question 27 of 75

Oxbows are types of what bodies of water?

- A) Ocean
- B) Lake
- C) River
- D) Stream

Question 28 of 75

What is the term for steep-sided narrow inlets between cliffs?

- A) Erratic
- B) Striation
- C) Fjord
- D) Moulin

Question 29 of 75

What igneous rock is similar to rhyolite, but is intrusive?

- A) Basalt
- B) Granite
- C) Marble
- D) Gabbro

Question 30 of 75

Which regions of Earth's lithosphere include one named for Juan de Fuca?

- A) Tectonic plates
- B) Stone regions
- C) Surface regions
- D) Cratonic plates

Question 31 of 75

The San Andreas in California is an example of what features that have normal and reverse types?

- A) Dips
- B) Dikes
- C) Sills
- D) Faults

Question 32 of 75

What sedimentary rock contains calcium carbonate?

- A) Siltstone
- B) Sandstone
- C) Quartzite
- D) Limestone

Question 33 of 75

What atmospheric features have types like cirrus, stratus, and cumulus?

- A) Nimbus
- B) Winds
- C) Clouds
- D) Nuclei

Question 34 of 75

Aquifers are systems of porous rock that contain what substance?

- A) Oil
- B) Methane
- C) Mercury
- D) Water

Question 35 of 75

Which of the following is not a type of volcano?

- A) Piedmont
- B) Shield
- C) Cinder cone
- D) Composite

Question 36 of 75

A solid nickel-iron alloy forms which part of Earth's interior?

- A) Crust
- B) Mantle
- C) Outer core
- D) Inner core

Question 37 of 75

What scale is used to determine the hardness of minerals?

- A) Cabri
- B) Goldman
- C) Absalon
- D) Mohs

Question 38 of 75

What class of rocks can be formed through either a 'contact' or 'regional' process with high temperatures and pressures?

- A) Plutonic
- B) Metamorphic
- C) Sedimentary
- D) Igneous

Question 39 of 75

What type of rock makes up the seafloor?

- A) Basalt
- B) Granite
- C) Obsidian
- D) Flint

Question 40 of 75

What variations in sea levels occur due to the moon?

- A) Tides
- B) Swells
- C) Barrs
- D) Rolls

Question 41 of 75

What tetrahedral hydrocarbon is the second most abundant greenhouse gas?

- A) Butane
- B) Nitrous Oxide
- C) Carbon Dioxide
- D) Methane

Question 42 of 75

What is the name of a tornado occurring over water?

- A) Waterspout
- B) Waternado
- C) Water tower
- D) Hurricane

Question 43 of 75

Which of the following is an ore for iron?

- A) Hematite
- B) Ilmenite
- C) Galena
- D) Bauxite

Question 44 of 75

What is the study of rocks called?

- A) Stonology
- B) Igneology
- C) Minerology
- D) Petrology

Question 45 of 75

Which geologic period had a namesake “explosion” in the variety and amount of life on Earth?

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- A) Devonian
 - B) Cambrian
 - C) Ordovician
 - D) Permian

Question 46 of 75

Which process that occurs at convergent plate boundaries involves a dense tectonic plate sinking below another plate and being pulled into the mantle?

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- A) Subduction
 - B) Convection
 - C) Strike-slip fault
 - D) Seafloor Spreading

Question 47 of 75

Which mineral was used in watches because it exhibits piezoelectricity, meaning it develops an electric charge due to mechanical stress?

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- A) Calcite
 - B) Fluorite
 - C) Apatite
 - D) Quartz

Question 48 of 75

Karst topography is associated with which of the following?

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- A) Deposits of limestone and large numbers of caves
 - B) Mountains created by the movement of tectonic plates
 - C) Numerous moraines, tarns, and eskers
 - D) The highest snowfall amounts in the 48 contiguous states

Question 49 of 75

The lowest point on a land surface not covered by liquid water can be found where?

- A) Under a glacier in Antarctica
- B) Ngorongoro Crater
- C) The shores of the Dead Sea
- D) Death Valley

Question 50 of 75

Orographic lifting results in which of the following?

- A) Hills being raised up from a valley floor
- B) Adiabatic cooling in air masses
- C) The lowest air pressures recorded on earth
- D) The creation of drumlins

Question 51 of 75

Isostatic rebound can result when which of the following events occurs?

- A) Meteorites strike
- B) Mines are dug
- C) Glaciers retreat
- D) Volcanoes erupt

Question 52 of 75

Though not in Tornado Alley, which of these four states experiences far more tornadoes in an average year than the other three states combined?

- A) Oregon
- B) Alabama
- C) New York
- D) Alaska

Question 53 of 75

June 1-November 30 corresponds to which of the following periods?

- A) The seven months during which almost all tornadoes occur in the USA
- B) The perihelion of the earth
- C) An annual upsurge in volcanism in Yellowstone National Park
- D) The Atlantic Ocean hurricane season

Question 54 of 75

What edge of the continent is submerged under the ocean descends to a break then to the continental slope?

- A) Continental shelf
- B) Continental wall
- C) Continental cliff
- D) Continental sliding

Question 55 of 75

What mineral class do Feldspar and Quartz fall under?

- A) Oxides
- B) Silicates
- C) Carbonates
- D) Sulfides

Question 56 of 75

What lines mark areas of equal pressure on a weather map?

- A) Isochores
- B) Isoroles
- C) Isotemps
- D) Isobars

Question 57 of 75

Asteroids begin burning up in what layer of the atmosphere below the thermosphere?

- A) Exosphere
- B) Troposphere
- C) Mesosphere
- D) Stratosphere

Question 58 of 75

Which of the following is not a step in the nitrogen cycle?

- A) Convergence
- B) Ammonification
- C) Nitrogen fixation
- D) Assimilation

Question 59 of 75

Rocks that have high silica content are classified as what?

- A) Mafic
- B) Felsic
- C) Intermediate
- D) Ultramafic

Question 60 of 75

Which of Steno's laws states that surface layers of rock are younger than deeper rock layers?

- A) Law of cross-cutting relationships
- B) Law of superposition
- C) Law of lateral continuity
- D) Law of original horizontality

Question 61 of 75

What is a type of wind-deposited sediment?

- A) Loam
- B) Spline
- C) Loess
- D) Hex

Question 62 of 75

Which of the following was an early irrigation device?

- A) Democritus' transporter
- B) Archimedes' screw
- C) Euler diverter
- D) Abbasid wheel

Question 63 of 75

Harry Hess described what process that creates new oceanic crust?

- A) Abyssal extension
- B) Seafloor spreading
- C) Benthic opening
- D) Crustal movement

Question 64 of 75

What type of fog forms when warm, moist air moves over the ground?

- A) Radiation
- B) Precipitation
- C) Advection
- D) Convection

Question 65 of 75

Lucy was a member of what genus of hominins?

- A) Paranthropus
- B) Australopithecus
- C) Homo
- D) Pan

Question 66 of 75

What process results in the creation of mountains?

- A) Creogeny
- B) Mounogenesis
- C) Orogeny
- D) Pleiogenesis

Question 67 of 75

Which of these is something that can be seen or experienced each year in the state of New York?

- A) The constellation crux
- B) Chinook winds
- C) Lake effect snow
- D) The world's highest tides

Question 68 of 75

A limnic eruption takes place when which of the following occurs?

- A) Pyroclastic flows overwhelm all vegetation
- B) Toxic gases are released from a lake
- C) Magma is released slowly from a shield volcano
- D) A caldera collapses

Question 69 of 75

Sunny skies are most associated with which of these types of clouds?

- A) Cumulus
- B) Nimbostratus
- C) Cumulonimbus
- D) Stratus

Question 70 of 75

Sapphires and rubies are two gem varieties of which material?

- A) Corundum
- B) Quartz
- C) Humus
- D) Graphite

Question 71 of 75

The most powerful hurricane ever recorded, Hurricane Patricia, at its peak had maximum sustained winds of what intensity?

- A) 215 mph
- B) 100 mph
- C) 155 mph
- D) 300 mph

Question 72 of 75

Which of these phenomena takes place in the Atlantic Ocean?

- A) Humboldt Current
- B) Typhoons
- C) El Nino
- D) Gulf Stream

Question 73 of 75

Where could you find the asthenosphere?

- A) The upper portion of the mantle
- B) Above the stratosphere, but below the exosphere
- C) Wherever rainfall is sufficient to create rain forests
- D) Both sections of the earth's core

Question 74 of 75

Which of these eruptions rated highest on the Volcanic Explosivity Index?

- A) Tambora in 1815
- B) Mount St. Helens in 1980
- C) Vesuvius in 79 AD
- D) Kilauea in 1977

Question 75 of 75

Which of these sites is where widespread fracking has taken place in recent years?

- A) Great Basin
- B) Florida Panhandle
- C) Permian Basin
- D) Ozark Mountains