

# Essentials of Oceanography

Oceanography · Practice Test · 25 Questions

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**1. Which of the following covers approximately 71 percent of the Earth's surface?**

- A) The continents
- B) The global ocean
- C) The ice caps
- D) The desert regions

**2. What is the deepest known point in the Earth's oceans?**

- A) The Puerto Rico Trench
- B) The Java Trench
- C) The Challenger Deep
- D) The Tonga Trench

**3. Which ocean is the largest and deepest in the world?**

- A) Atlantic Ocean
- B) Indian Ocean
- C) Arctic Ocean
- D) Pacific Ocean

**4. What primarily causes the movement of ocean tides?**

- A) Wind patterns
- B) The gravitational pull of the Moon and Sun
- C) Temperature differences
- D) Earth's rotation speed

**5. What is the average salinity of the world's ocean?**

- A) 3.5 percent
- B) 10 percent
- C) 0.5 percent
- D) 15 percent

**6. Which major current is responsible for warming the climate of Western Europe?**

- A) California Current
- B) Gulf Stream
- C) Peru Current
- D) Labrador Current

**7. What is the name of the process by which cold, nutrient-rich water rises to the surface?**

- A) Downwelling
- B) Subduction
- C) Upwelling
- D) Evaporation

**8. Which layer of the ocean receives enough sunlight for photosynthesis?**

- A) Abyssal zone
- B) Hadal zone
- C) Euphotic zone
- D) Bathyal zone

**9. What is the most abundant dissolved salt in the ocean?**

- A) Magnesium sulfate
- B) Calcium carbonate
- C) Sodium chloride
- D) Potassium bromide

**10. Which term describes the gradual increase in ocean acidity due to increased carbon dioxide levels?**

- A) Ocean acidification
- B) Thermal expansion
- C) Marine deoxygenation
- D) Eutrophication

**11. The 'Great Barrier Reef' is primarily located off the coast of which country?**

- A) Brazil
- B) Indonesia
- C) Australia
- D) Philippines

**12. What is the primary gas dissolved in the ocean that marine animals require to breathe?**

- A) Carbon dioxide
- B) Nitrogen
- C) Oxygen
- D) Methane

**13. What is the name of the underwater mountain range that runs through the middle of the Atlantic Ocean?**

- A) Mid-Atlantic Ridge
- B) Andes Range
- C) Himalayan Trench
- D) Aleutian Arc

**14. Which ocean zone is characterized by complete darkness and extreme pressure?**

- A) Epipelagic
- B) Mesopelagic
- C) Abyssal
- D) Neritic

**15. What is the primary factor influencing the formation of surface ocean currents?**

- A) Tectonic plate movement
- B) Global wind patterns
- C) Underwater volcanoes
- D) Salinity gradients

**16. Approximately how much of the Earth's total water is contained in the oceans?**

- A) 97 percent
- B) 50 percent
- C) 75 percent
- D) 30 percent

**17. What is a tsunami typically caused by?**

- A) Tidal forces
- B) Underwater earthquakes or volcanic eruptions
- C) Strong surface winds
- D) Heavy rainfall

**18. Which ocean basin is bordered by the most continents?**

- A) Arctic Ocean
- B) Pacific Ocean
- C) Indian Ocean
- D) Atlantic Ocean

**19. What is the name of the boundary layer where ocean temperature changes rapidly with depth?**

- A) Halocline
- B) Thermocline
- C) Pycnocline
- D) Mixed layer

**20. Which of these is considered a 'marginal sea' of the Atlantic Ocean?**

- A) Coral Sea
- B) Caribbean Sea
- C) Tasman Sea
- D) Bering Sea

**21. What do we call the large, circular systems of surface ocean currents?**

- A) Eddies
- B) Gyres
- C) Tides
- D) Upwellings

**22. Which substance makes up the majority of the sediment on the deep ocean floor?**

- A) Volcanic ash
- B) Organic debris and clay
- C) Crushed coral
- D) Plastic waste

**23. The 'Ring of Fire,' known for frequent volcanic activity, is located primarily around which ocean?**

- A) Atlantic Ocean
- B) Pacific Ocean
- C) Arctic Ocean
- D) Indian Ocean

**24. Which instrument is commonly used to measure the depth of the ocean floor?**

- A) Barometer
- B) Sonar
- C) Anemometer
- D) Hygrometer

**25. What is the term for the total variety of life forms found in an ocean ecosystem?**

- A) Biomass
- B) Biodiversity
- C) Carrying capacity
- D) Population density