

Volcanic Hazards and Human Health

Volcanology · Practice Test · 15 Questions

1. Which part of the human body is most immediately irritated by volcanic ash particles?

- A) The lungs and respiratory system
- B) The toenails
- C) The inner ear
- D) The hair follicles

2. Volcanic ash is primarily composed of which material, which can cause abrasion to the human eye?

- A) Soft silk fibers
- B) Tiny fragments of glass and rock
- C) Water vapor
- D) Compressed cotton

3. What is the primary way volcanic gases like sulfur dioxide affect human health?

- A) They turn skin blue
- B) They cause irritation to the nose and throat
- C) They improve muscle density
- D) They increase hair growth

4. Long-term inhalation of fine volcanic ash is most likely to cause which of the following health issues?

- A) Enhanced vision
- B) Silicosis or breathing difficulties
- C) Increased bone density
- D) Better hearing

5. Which safety gear is recommended to protect the human respiratory system during heavy volcanic ashfall?

- A) Sunglasses
- B) A high-quality particulate respirator mask
- C) Leather gloves
- D) Wool socks

6. What is a common skin reaction for people exposed to acidic volcanic gases or ash?

- A) Immediate healing
- B) Skin irritation and rashes
- C) Increased tanning
- D) Sudden height growth

7. Volcanic ash is considered harmful to the human body mainly because it is:

- A) Highly nutritious
- B) Chemically inert and smooth
- C) Sharp, abrasive, and small enough to inhale
- D) A source of pure oxygen

8. Why are people with pre-existing asthma at higher risk during a volcanic eruption?

- A) Ash can trigger severe respiratory distress
- B) Ash cures asthma
- C) Ash increases lung capacity
- D) Ash has no effect on asthma

9. Which of the following is a symptom of inhaling high concentrations of volcanic gases?

- A) Extreme happiness
- B) Headaches and dizziness
- C) Increased ability to run
- D) Faster hair growth

10. During an ashfall, why is it advised to wear goggles instead of contact lenses?

- A) Lenses make you look like a scientist
- B) Ash can get trapped under lenses and scratch the cornea
- C) Lenses are too heavy
- D) Lenses absorb volcanic heat

11. What should a person do to protect their throat if they must be outside during volcanic ashfall?

- A) Shout loudly
- B) Drink carbonated soda
- C) Cover their mouth with a damp cloth
- D) Run as fast as possible

12. Volcanic gases can sometimes cause a metallic taste in which part of the human body?

- A) The hands
- B) The feet
- C) The mouth
- D) The ears

13. Which mineral in volcanic ash is known to be particularly dangerous to lung tissue?

- A) Crystalline silica
- B) Table salt
- C) Sugar
- D) Compressed charcoal

14. How does volcanic activity affect the water supply, which is essential for human health?

- A) It makes water taste like fruit
- B) It can contaminate water with fluoride and acidic chemicals
- C) It purifies all water automatically
- D) It turns water into steam instantly

15. What is the most effective way to prevent ash from entering the human digestive system during an eruption?

- A) Keeping food and water containers covered
- B) Eating only raw vegetables
- C) Drinking from open puddles
- D) Leaving windows open while eating