

OCEANS AND LIFE

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

Understanding Society: India and Beyond • Grade 9 Part 2 • New Syllabus 2026–27

Practice Set: 40 chapter-based MCQs covering ocean relief, ocean movements, marine resources, hazards, early warning systems, maritime zones and international maritime rules.

MCQs – Practice Set

1. Which term refers to the physical features of the ocean floor?

- A. Ocean relief
- B. Ocean current
- C. Marine zone
- D. Tidal range

2. Which ocean-floor feature is a shallow submerged extension of a continent?

- A. Abyssal plain
- B. Continental shelf
- C. Ocean trench
- D. Mid-ocean ridge

3. Which feature lies beyond the continental shelf and is generally much steeper?

- A. Continental slope
- B. Guyot
- C. Seamount
- D. Abyssal plain

4. A broad, deep and relatively flat part of the ocean floor is called the:

- A. Continental shelf
- B. Ocean trench
- C. Abyssal plain
- D. Submarine canyon

5. A long underwater mountain system is known as a:

- A. Mid-ocean ridge
- B. Continental slope
- C. Guyot
- D. Trench

6. Which ocean-floor feature is a very deep, narrow depression?

- A. Seamount
- B. Ocean trench
- C. Continental shelf
- D. Abyssal plain

7. An underwater mountain that does not reach the ocean surface is called a:

- A. Guyot
- B. Seamount

- C. Trench
- D. Canyon

8. A flat-topped underwater mountain is called a:

- A. Guyot
- B. Seamount
- C. Ridge
- D. Shelf

9. Which of the following is a major cause of ordinary surface waves?

- A. Wind
- B. Ocean minerals
- C. Earthquakes only
- D. Ship traffic

10. The highest point of a wave is called its:

- A. Trough
- B. Crest
- C. Wavelength
- D. Tide

11. The lowest point of a wave is called its:

- A. Crest
- B. Trough
- C. Ridge
- D. Range

12. The periodic rise and fall of sea level is called:

- A. Current
- B. Wave
- C. Tide
- D. Swell

13. Spring tides generally occur around the:

- A. First and third quarter Moon
- B. New and full Moon
- C. New and first quarter Moon
- D. Full and third quarter Moon

14. Neap tides occur around the:

- A. New Moon and full Moon
- B. First and third quarter Moon
- C. New Moon only
- D. Full Moon only

15. Which force associated with Earth's rotation affects the direction of large-scale ocean currents?

- A. Frictional force
- B. Coriolis force
- C. Magnetic force
- D. Buoyant force

16. Ocean currents are best described as:

- A. Random movements of waves
- B. Large-scale movements of ocean water in particular directions
- C. Daily changes in sea level
- D. Underwater mountains

17. Which type of current generally transports relatively warm water?

- A. Warm current
- B. Cold current
- C. Tidal current only
- D. Sediment current

18. Which of the following is a living marine resource?

- A. Natural gas
- B. Fish
- C. Seabed mineral
- D. Petroleum

19. Which of the following is a non-living marine resource?

- A. Fish
- B. Seaweed
- C. Natural gas
- D. Shellfish

20. Which is an example of renewable ocean energy?

- A. Offshore wind
- B. Coal
- C. Petroleum
- D. Natural gas

21. The Blue Economy emphasises:

- A. Only maximum extraction of ocean resources
- B. Sustainable economic use of ocean resources
- C. Complete closure of all oceans
- D. Only tourism

22. Which Sustainable Development Goal is known as 'Life Below Water'?

- A. SDG 6
- B. SDG 7
- C. SDG 13
- D. SDG 14

23. Which activity can threaten marine resources when carried out unsustainably?

- A. Overfishing
- B. Marine conservation
- C. Recycling
- D. Habitat restoration

24. A cyclone is best described as:

- A. A rotating weather system associated with strong winds
- B. A type of ocean current
- C. An underwater mountain
- D. A permanent ocean tide

25. Which of the following can generate a tsunami?

- A. Ordinary sea breeze
- B. Underwater earthquake
- C. Daily high tide
- D. Normal ocean current

26. A tsunami is best described as:

- A. A single wind-generated wave
- B. A series of waves generated by a major disturbance of ocean water
- C. A type of warm current

D. A daily tidal cycle

27. Which sequence best represents a basic early warning process?

- A. Response → detection → warning → monitoring
- B. Detection → monitoring → analysis → warning → communication
- C. Evacuation → detection → analysis → monitoring
- D. Communication → detection → response → warning

28. Which organisation is associated with India's tsunami early warning system?

- A. INCOIS
- B. RBI
- C. ISRO Bank
- D. NITI Aayog

29. What is the main purpose of a cyclone warning?

- A. To increase fishing activity
- B. To provide information so people can prepare and take protective action
- C. To change maritime boundaries
- D. To increase ocean temperatures

30. The territorial sea extends up to approximately:

- A. 6 nautical miles
- B. 12 nautical miles
- C. 24 nautical miles
- D. 200 nautical miles

31. The contiguous zone extends up to approximately:

- A. 12 nautical miles
- B. 18 nautical miles
- C. 24 nautical miles
- D. 200 nautical miles

32. The Exclusive Economic Zone extends up to approximately:

- A. 12 nautical miles
- B. 24 nautical miles
- C. 100 nautical miles
- D. 200 nautical miles

33. Which maritime zone gives a coastal state specific rights over natural resources up to 200 nautical miles, subject to international law?

- A. Internal waters
- B. Territorial sea
- C. EEZ
- D. High seas

34. Which maritime area lies beyond national maritime zones?

- A. Internal waters
- B. Territorial sea
- C. High seas
- D. Contiguous zone

35. The principle that generally allows a foreign ship to pass through a territorial sea subject to conditions is called:

- A. Free fishing
- B. Innocent passage
- C. Open passage
- D. Resource passage

36. UNCLOS stands for:

- A. United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
- B. United Nations Council for Ocean and Land Studies
- C. Universal Convention on Coastal and Land Safety
- D. United Nations Committee on Legal Ocean Shipping

37. MARPOL is mainly concerned with:

- A. Preventing pollution from ships
- B. Creating fishing grounds
- C. Measuring tides
- D. Mapping mountains

38. Which activity best supports sustainable ocean use?

- A. Overfishing
- B. Dumping plastic waste
- C. Responsible fishing and marine conservation
- D. Uncontrolled extraction

39. Why are international maritime rules important?

- A. Oceans are used by many countries and activities
- B. Oceans belong to one country
- C. They eliminate all marine life
- D. They prevent all ships from travelling

40. Which combination best represents the major ocean-water movements studied in this chapter?

- A. Waves, tides and currents
- B. Rain, rivers and glaciers
- C. Winds, clouds and rainfall
- D. Earthquakes, volcanoes and landslides

Answer Key

1. A	11. B	21. B	31. C
2. B	12. C	22. D	32. D
3. A	13. B	23. A	33. C
4. C	14. B	24. A	34. C
5. A	15. B	25. B	35. B
6. B	16. B	26. B	36. A
7. B	17. A	27. B	37. A
8. A	18. B	28. A	38. C
9. A	19. C	29. B	39. A
10. B	20. A	30. B	40. A

Revision Tip: Pay special attention to ocean-floor features, spring vs. neap tides, warm and cold currents, marine resources, tsunami/cyclone warnings, 12–24–200 nautical mile maritime limits, innocent passage, UNCLOS and MARPOL.

Prepared for Class 9 Social Science Chapter 1: Oceans and Life • Part 2