

**Physical Geography- Pre and Post Test**  
**2005**

**Course Learning Objectives**

1. *Become familiarized with the tools used to view, interpret processes, and recognize change occurring in our physical geographic environment.*
2. *Develop an understanding of earth's physical landforms, and the processes controlling variations in weather and climate, soils, and plant communities around the world.*
3. *Provide a foundation upon which to build a better understanding of the human interrelationships with the physical environment.*

**Content Assessment Questions (objective being assessed in bold numbering)**

1) Lines of equal pressure on a map are called (**Objective 1**):

- a. Contours                  b. Isotherms                  c. Isotachs                  d. Isobars

% Correct Pre-Test	% Correct Post-Test	% Change
47%	78%	31%

2) In the northern hemisphere the wind circulation (near the ground) in a low is (**2**):

- a. Counterclockwise, spiraling inward                  d. Clockwise, spiraling inward and outward  
b. Clockwise, spiraling inward  
c. Clockwise, spiraling outward                  e. Counterclockwise, spiraling outward

% Correct Pre-Test	% Correct Post-Test	% Change
26%	47%	21%

3) The warm ocean current that is most influential on the United States is called the (**2 and 3**):

- a) Alaska current    b. Gulf Stream current    c. California current    d. New England Current

% Correct Pre-Test	% Correct Post-Test	% Change
54%	61%	7%

4) In the early morning hours a person standing on a beach facing the water would feel (**2 and 3**):

- a. A breeze blowing from the land behind them towards the water.  
b. A breeze blowing at their side perpendicular to the water.  
c. A breeze blowing toward them from the water.  
d. No breeze.

% Correct Pre-Test	% Correct Post-Test	% Change
75%	67%	-8%

5) The eye of a hurricane is normally characterized as having **(2)**:

- a. Low pressure      b. Clear skies      c. Strong winds      d. Both a and b.

% Correct Pre-Test	% Correct Post-Test	% Change
30%	46%	16%

6). On a warm sunny day, the air in or over which of the following sites is likely to have the lowest relative humidity **(2 and 3)**?

- a. A densely shaded forest      c. An asphalt surface in the sun  
 b. A grassy field in the sun      d. An asphalt surface in the shade

% Correct Pre-Test	% Correct Post-Test	% Change
30%	46%	16%

7). Which of the following gases accounts for about 78 percent of the atmosphere's mass **(2)**?

- a. Water vapor      c. Ozone      e. Oxygen  
 b. Nitrogen      d. Carbon dioxide

% Correct Pre-Test	% Correct Post-Test	% Change
42%	62%	20%

8) Disintegration of rocks is best associated with **(2)**:

- a. biological weathering.      b. chemical weathering.  
 c. physical weathering.      d. abrasive weathering.

% Correct Pre-Test	% Correct Post-Test	% Change
48%	48%	0%

9) Stream discharge refers to the amount of water flowing past a point in a given amount of time. What channel properties are used to determine discharge at any given time **(2 and 3)**?

- a. gradient and discharge.  
 b. gradient and sediment load.  
 c. channel cross-sectional area and gradient.  
 d. channel cross-sectional area and velocity.

% Correct Pre-Test	% Correct Post-Test	% Change
32%	78%	46%

- 10) The broken up layer of rock material resting on top of bedrock that originated by breakdown in place (residuum) or by transport by water, ice, or wind is called **(2)**:
- soil
  - pedisediment
  - colluvial aprons
  - regolith

% Correct Pre-Test	% Correct Post-Test	% Change
10%	95%	85%

- 11). In glaciated mountains, the characteristic valley form is **(2)**:
- U-shaped.
  - V-shaped.
  - chattermarked.

% Correct Pre-Test	% Correct Post-Test	% Change
51%	79%	28%

- 12) Another, more popular, name for an ice-block depression is **(2)**:
- kettle.
  - knob.
  - kame
  - karst

% Correct Pre-Test	% Correct Post-Test	% Change
70%	69%	-1%

- 13) A rock body that is permeable to water in usable amounts is a(n) **(2 and 3)** :
- aquiclude.
  - aquifer.
  - aquitard.
  - water table.

% Correct Pre-Test	% Correct Post-Test	% Change
69%	89%	20%

- 14) The vegetation characteristic of southern California is largely **(2 and 3)**:
- broadleaf evergreen.
  - schlerophyllus.
  - volcanic adapted.
  - needleleaf evergreen.

% Correct Pre-Test	% Correct Post-Test	% Change
19%	15%	-4%

- 15) Deciduousness in woody plants is an advantage in climates with **(2)**:
- continuous rainfall.
  - seasonal stress (i.e., dry, cold) for plants.
  - conditions favoring frequent fires.
  - short, mild winters.

% Correct Pre-Test	% Correct Post-Test	% Change
38%	49%	11%