The Water Cycle

Choose one answer per question. Circle A, B, C, or D.

1. A thin puddle on a playground shrinks during a sunny afternoon. Which process moves some of its water into the air?
   A. Evaporation
   B. Condensation
   C. Precipitation
   D. Freezing

2. Which word covers rain, snow, and other forms of water that fall from clouds?
   A. Transpiration
   B. Infiltration
   C. Precipitation
   D. Evaporation

3. As moist air cools, some water vapor changes into tiny liquid droplets. What is this change called?
   A. Evaporation
   B. Condensation
   C. Melting
   D. Runoff

4. On a warm day a snowbank gives off a trickle of liquid water. Which change produces that liquid?
   A. Freezing
   B. Condensation
   C. Sublimation
   D. Melting

5. Rainwater runs along a sidewalk and downhill into a stream. What is the flow along the sidewalk called?
   A. Infiltration
   B. Surface runoff
   C. Groundwater flow
   D. Transpiration

6. Part of a rainstorm soaks into the soil of a garden. Which process occurs as the water crosses the ground surface?

A. Infiltration
B. Condensation
C. Surface runoff
D. Precipitation

7. After water enters a tree through its roots, some leaves the tree as vapor through its leaves. What is that process?

A. Condensation
B. Groundwater recharge
C. Surface runoff
D. Transpiration

8. On a dry, cold day, snow on a sheltered ledge changes directly to water vapor without melting. Which process is described?

A. Condensation
B. Evaporation
C. Sublimation
D. Infiltration

9. Water flows naturally out of a hillside even between rainstorms. In the water cycle, what does this spring illustrate?

A. Groundwater discharging to the surface
B. Water vapor turning into cloud droplets
C. Rain splashing against a hillside
D. Water lost from leaves into the air

10. A meadow sends water to the atmosphere both from wet soil and through plant leaves. What do hydrologists call those two transfers taken together?

A. Snowmelt
B. Precipitation
C. Groundwater recharge
D. Evapotranspiration

11. Two small plots get the same rain. One is grass over permeable soil, and one is covered by intact pavement. Which outcome is more likely on the paved plot?

A. More infiltration and more transpiration
B. More infiltration and less surface runoff
C. Less infiltration and more surface runoff
D. More snowmelt and less surface runoff

12. Some rainwater soaks in, moves downward through soil, and reaches the saturated zone. What does reaching that zone do?

A. Turns groundwater into vapor
B. Recharges groundwater
C. Creates precipitation
D. Stops all groundwater flow

13. A mountain basin gets most of its winter precipitation as snow. Why can that precipitation increase river flow several months later?

A. Snow instantly adds the same amount to the river
B. Winter snow travels upstream before melting
C. The river can only receive water by evaporation
D. Snow stores water until the spring melt

14. Starting with liquid water in a lake, which sequence could move the same water into groundwater farther away?

A. Evaporation, condensation, precipitation, infiltration, then recharge
B. Infiltration, precipitation, freezing, then evaporation
C. Condensation, precipitation, transpiration, then runoff into the air
D. Freezing, sublimation, runoff in the sky, then recharge

15. In a simplified pond budget for one day, 100 liters enter as rain, 35 leave by evaporation, and 50 leave in an outlet. No other flows occur. How does stored water change?

A. It increases by 185 liters
B. It decreases by 15 liters
C. It increases by 15 liters
D. It stays the same