GEOL 105-005 Hargrave Fall 2017 Gen Ed Assessment

Learning Objective B1:

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

B.1. Apply key processes and scientific reasoning to draw reasonable conclusions within the natural sciences.

Exam Questions:

- 1. An atom of sodium (Na) has a single electron in its outer shell and an atom of chlorine (Cl) has seven (7) electrons in its outer shell. What happens when these two elements bond?
 - a. Sodium shares its electron with chlorine.
 - b. The compound becomes poisonous.
 - c. Sodium becomes negatively charged.
 - d. There is a transfer of one electron from sodium to chlorine.
- 2. What is the driving mechanism for plate tectonics?
 - a. gravity and magnetism acting on continents
 - b. convective heat deep within Earth
 - c. volcanoes and earthquakes at plate boundaries
 - d. tidal forces caused by the moon
- 3. Lava flows are typically finer grained than intrusive igneous rocks. Why?
 - a. The extrusive lava, because it is deep below the surface, cools very slowly producing very small mineral grains.
 - b. The extrusive lava cools quickly so the mineral grains do not have time to grow.
 - c. Intrusive magma flows onto the Earth's surface and cools very slowly, allowing many small mineral grains to grow.
 - d. Intrusive magma is cooler because it is well insulated by the surrounding rock.
- 4. As sediment is transported downstream, away from its point of origin, the particles become

a. better sorted
o. rounder
e. smaller
l. All of the choices are correct

- 5. Wave-formed ripple marks _____.
 - a. form in undisturbed deep-sea sedimentary environments
 - b. form when clay-rich sediment dries and shrinks
 - c. tend to have symmetrical shape
 - d. are poor indicators of ancient current directions
- 6. Only igneous and sedimentary rocks can be deformed.
 - a. True b. False
- $7.\ We\ know\ that\ the\ mantle\ is\ not\ molten\ because\ P-waves\ can\ travel\ through\ it.$
 - a. True b. False

Results:

Instructor Section		Hargrave 1
Question	1	43%
	2	73%
	3	75%
	4	95%
	5	62%
	6	92%
	7	59%
Average		71%

Learning Objective B2:

d. under all circumstances

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

B.2. Use critical and logical thinking, knowledge of accepted scientific methods, and appropriate sources to evaluate the credibility of information with scientific content.

Exam Questions:
1. If the continents were once joined together, rocks and mountain ranges on the margins of each should have
a. formed the same sequences but at different times b. formed different sequences at the same time c. formed under different conditions at different times d. formed under the same conditions and in the same sequence
 2. Glacially deposited strata were important in the development of continental drift theory because a. the distribution of glacial deposits indicated that the entire Earth must have been glaciated at one time b. the glacial deposits indicated that all of the southern continents must have been closer to the South Pole and connected c. they indicated that large glaciers affect the rate of continental drift d. the distribution of coal-swamp deposits indicated that the entire Earth must have been very warm while glaciers formed
3. Geologists use and their knowledge of present-day depositional processes to make determinations about a rock's depositional environment. a. anthropology b. archeology c. the principle of uniformitarianism d. the principle of catastrophism
4. P-waves travel faster than S-waves a. when the ground surface is dense and elastic b. when both waves pass through liquid c. only when the earthquake is generated in Earth's core

- 5. Mountain ranges are associated with modern and ancient convergent-plate boundaries, but do not form in association with either divergent- or transform-plate boundaries.
 - a. True
- b. False

Results:

Instructor		Hargrave
Section		1
Question	1	72%
	2	59%
	3	78%
	4	85%
	5	52%
Average		69%

Reflection: The averages are lower than I would like. For future classes, I hope to have the questions identified prior to the beginning of the semester to be sure to provide adequate assessment (perhaps as a homework assignment rather than a multiple choice or true/false exam question). I think it would also be useful to standardize the concepts and assessment across course sections.