

Practice Questions: Minerals

1. Which mineral is the major component of drywall?

- A) talc
- B) calcite
- C) muscovite mica
- D) selenite gypsum

2. Base your answer to the following question on the information below.

A student on a field trip in New York State collected a sample of metamorphic bedrock containing bands of coarse-grained crystals of plagioclase feldspar, pyroxene, quartz, and mica.

List *two* of the chemical elements found in plagioclase feldspar.

3. Which mineral is commonly used as a food additive?

- A) calcite
- B) talc
- C) halite
- D) fluorite

4. Which mineral has a metallic luster, a black streak, and is an ore of iron?

- A) galena
- B) magnetite
- C) pyroxene
- D) graphite

5. Base your answer to the following question on A student created the table below by classify six minerals into two groups, *A* and *B* , based on a single property.

Group A	Group B
olivine	pyrite
garnet	galena
calcite	graphite

Which property was used to classify' these minerals?

- A) color
- B) luster
- C) chemical composition
- D) hardness

6. The mineral graphite is often used as

- A) a lubricant
- B) an abrasive
- C) a source of iron
- D) a cementing material

Base your answers to questions 7 and 8 on the photograph below. The photograph shows several broken samples of the same colorless mineral.



7. Which mineral is most likely shown in the photograph?

- A) quartz
- B) calcite
- C) galena
- D) halite

8. Which physical property of this mineral is most easily seen in the photograph?

- A) fracture
- B) hardness
- C) streak
- D) cleavage

9. A human fingernail has a hardness of approximately 2.5. Which two minerals are *softer* than a human fingernail?

- A) calcite and halite
- B) sulfur and fluorite
- C) graphite and talc
- D) pyrite and magnetite

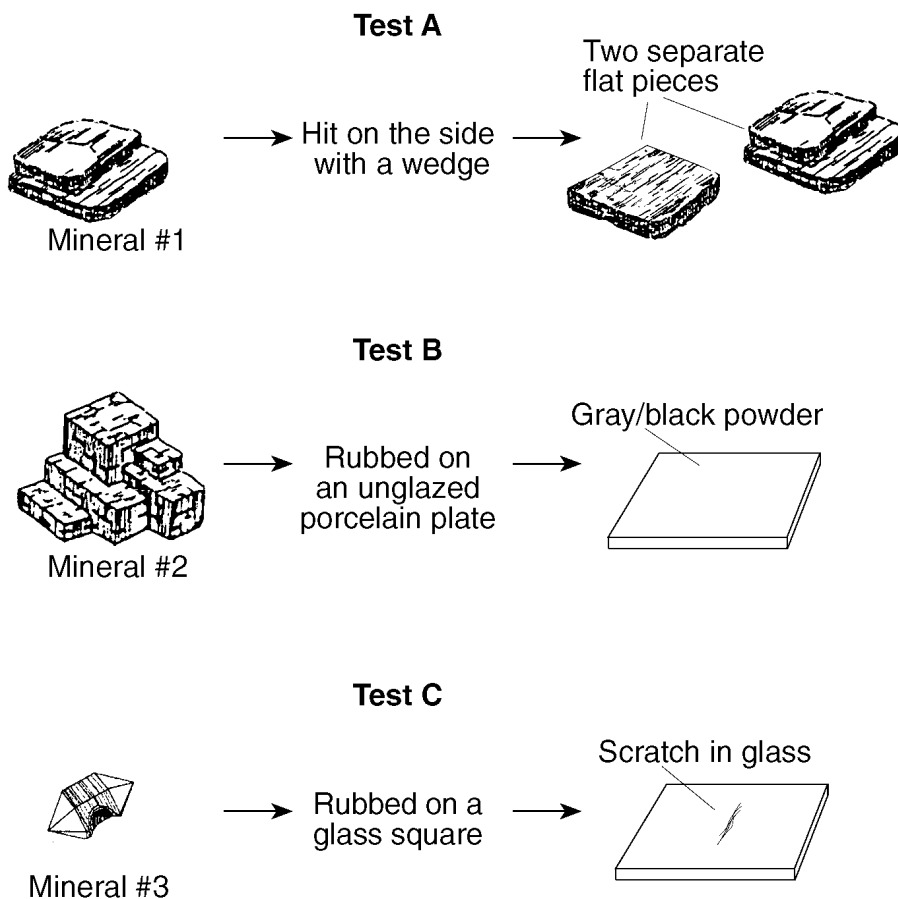
10. The internal atomic structure of a mineral most likely determines the mineral's

- A) color, streak, and age
- B) origin, exposure, and fracture
- C) size, location, and luster
- D) hardness, cleavage, and crystal shape

11. What is the best way to determine if a mineral sample is calcite or quartz?

- A) Observe the color of the mineral.
- B) Place the mineral near a magnet.
- C) Place a drop of acid on the mineral.
- D) Measure the mass of the mineral.

Base your answers to questions 12 and 13 on the diagram below, which shows three minerals with three different physical tests, *A*, *B*, and *C*, being performed on them.



12. The results of all three physical tests shown are most useful for determining the

- A) rate of weathering of the minerals
- B) identity of the minerals
- C) environment where the minerals formed
- D) geologic period when the minerals formed

13. Which sequence correctly matches each test, *A*, *B*, and *C*, with the mineral property tested?

- A) *A*—cleavage; *B*—streak; *C*—hardness
- B) *A*—cleavage; *B*—hardness; *C*—streak
- C) *A*—streak; *B*—cleavage; *C*—hardness
- D) *A*—streak; *B*—hardness; *C*—cleavage

14. Which mineral scratches dolomite and is scratched by olivine?

- A) galena
- B) quartz
- C) potassium feldspar
- D) muscovite mica

15. Which mineral is white or colorless, has a hardness of 2.5, and splits with cubic cleavage?

- A) calcite
- B) halite
- C) pyrite
- D) mica