Minerals Regents Questions

1. The mineral mica breaks evenly along flat sheets mainly because of its
   A) density
   B) chemical composition
   C) atomic arrangement
   D) hardness

2. According to the ESRTs, which element is most abundant in the Earth's crust?
   A) silicon
   B) oxygen
   C) nitrogen
   D) hydrogen

3. Which property is most useful in mineral identification?
   A) size
   B) color
   C) texture
   D) hardness

4. Certain minerals usually break along flat surfaces, while other minerals break unevenly. This characteristic is due to the
   A) luster of the mineral
   B) age of the mineral
   C) force with which the mineral is broken
   D) internal arrangement of the mineral's atoms

5. According to the Properties of Common Minerals Earth Science reference table, which mineral scratches dolomite and is scratched by olivine?
   A) quartz
   B) potassium feldspar
   C) muscovite mica
   D) galena

6. The mineral mica breaks evenly along flat sheets mainly because of its
   A) atomic arrangement
   B) chemical composition
   C) hardness
   D) density

7. According to the Properties of Common Minerals Earth Science reference table, which mineral leaves a green–black powder when rubbed against an unglazed porcelain plate?
   A) hematite
   B) galena
   C) graphite
   D) pyrite

Questions 8–10 refer to the following table showing mineral properties.
8. Why do diamond and graphite have different physical properties, even though they are both composed entirely of the element carbon?
   A) The minerals have different arrangement of carbon atoms.
   B) Only diamond contains radioactive carbon.
   C) The minerals have undergone different amounts of weathering.
   D) Only graphite consists of organic material.

9. Which mineral contains iron, has a metallic luster, is hard, and has the same color and streak?
   A) biotite mica
   B) kaolinite
   C) galena
   D) magnetite

10. Which mineral has a different color in its powdered form than its original form?
    A) pyrite
    B) kaolinite
    C) graphite
    D) magnetite