

Some Study Questions About Streams

1. What landform develops at the end of a stream, at or near base level, that constitutes a river's distributary system?
2. What forms the boundary between adjacent drainage basins?
3. What are examples of materials that may be transported in solution by a stream?
4. What are examples of materials that may be transported by suspension in a stream?
5. What are examples of materials that may be transported by saltation or rolling in a stream?
6. What is a flood?
7. What do we call an area that has a 1-in-100 chance of being flooded during any given year?
8. What is the term we use to describe the volume of water that passes by a given point along a stream during a specific unit of time (e.g., 40,000 liters per minute)?
9. In what direction does surface water generally flow relative to topographic contour lines: parallel to the lines, perpendicular to the lines, oblique to the lines, or in no particular direction relative to the lines?
10. Under normal-flow conditions, where is erosion a more important process in modifying a stream: along a cut bank, along a point bar, across the flood plane, in an ox-bow?
11. How does the gradient of a typical stream vary (if at all) in going downstream from the headwaters to the base of the stream?
12. How does the discharge of a typical stream vary (if at all) in going downstream from the headwaters to the base of the stream?
13. How does the channel size of a typical stream vary (if at all) in going downstream from the headwaters to the base of the stream?
14. How does the water velocity of a typical stream vary (if at all) in going downstream from the headwaters to the base of the stream?
15. How does the total sediment load of a typical stream vary (if at all) in going downstream from the headwaters to the base of the stream just above the delta?
16. The gradient of a stream is determined by dividing (what quantity?) by (what quantity?).
17. What type of stream typically forms where there is a superabundance of loose sediment (typically sand and gravel) being transported?
18. What type of stream has just one active channel that has a very curvy shape, and that flows down a surface with a very low gradient?
19. What type of stream is characterized by having several channels containing flowing water, separated by sand/gravel bars?