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Disasters Worksheet — Answer Key

2026 – 2027

Grade: 8 **Subject:** Geography

Time: 15 minutes **Maximum Marks:** 15

1. **Choose the correct answer**

(i) Observe the image. Which of the given options best names the oil spill that began with the event shown? [1]



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(a) Exxon Valdez

(b) Deepwater Horizon

(c) Castillo de Bellver

(d) Amoco Cadiz

Explanation: *The image shows the Deepwater Horizon oil rig on fire. The Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill began on April 20, 2010, in the Gulf of Mexico, caused by an explosion on the Deepwater Horizon oil rig. It is considered to be the largest marine oil spill in the history of the petroleum industry.*

(ii) Assertion (A): Assam is ravaged by floods every year, causing huge loss of life and property. [1]
Reason (R): Assam lies in the heart of the monsoon belt and gets heavy monsoon downpours, with average annual rainfall of 1927 mm.

(a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A

(b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A

(c) A is true but R is false

(d) A is false but R is true

Explanation: *Assam is indeed ravaged by floods every year causing huge loss (A is true). Assam does lie in the monsoon belt with average annual rainfall of 1927 mm (R is true). The heavy monsoon rainfall is a primary natural cause of the annual floods, so R correctly explains A.*

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2. **Fill in the blanks**

(i) Scientists who study earthquakes use instruments called _____ to record and measure ground motion. [1]

seismographs

Explanation: *Seismologists use seismographs to record and measure the motion of the ground and the location where the earthquake takes place.*

(ii) Big sponges used to absorb spilled oil during clean-up are called _____. [1]

sorbents

Explanation: *Sorbents are big sponges used to absorb oil during the clean-up of oil spills.*

3. **Name the following**

The world's largest river island, located on the river Brahmaputra in Assam. [1]

Majuli Island

4. **Give geographical reasons for the following**

(i) Mock drills are an essential part of disaster preparedness. [1]

Model answer: Mock drill training and practice form the practical side of disaster preparedness, alongside warning systems and educating people to cope with a disaster and keep a survival kit. Organising mock drills in schools, colleges and offices prepares people for any eventuality, so that more loss of life and property can be avoided when a disaster occurs.

(ii) The Bhopal Gas Tragedy is regarded as one of the worst industrial disasters in history. [1]

Model answer: About 40 tons of toxic Methyl Isocyanate gas leaked from Union Carbide's pesticide factory in Bhopal on December 03, 1984, killing 3,500 people and affecting about 40,000 in an area of 100 sq km. The gas blinded people, choked their breathing, attacked their eyes, lungs and nervous systems, and there had been earlier accidents at the plant without proper safety mechanisms being put in place.

5. Which two tectonic plates caused the 2015 Nepal earthquake? [1]

Model answer: The earthquake was caused by the converging Indian Plate and Eurasian Plate.

6. (i) Mention any four common causes of fire hazards in buildings. [2]

Model answer: First, a fire in a domestic area originates near the kitchen where there is a mechanical failure of the cooking equipment. Second, room heaters and fireplaces within rooms can cause fires. Third, poor electric wiring and the use of defective electrical appliances lead to fires. Fourth, smoking sometimes causes fire.

Additional points a student may include: Storage of hazardous chemicals or inflammable articles inside a building is another common cause of fire hazards — any four of these causes is a valid answer.

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(ii) State any four impacts of floods. [2]

Model answer: Floods are one of the most destructive natural disasters and cause huge loss of life and property. Floodwaters inundate agricultural fields and destroy crops. They cause contamination of drinking water and lead to water-borne diseases like jaundice and diarrhoea. In coastal areas, sea water destroys life and property and makes the soil saline and unfit for cultivation.

Additional points a student may include: Flooded areas get isolated from the rest of the country. Economically and socially backward communities are the worst affected by floods and take longer to recover from the damage.

7. Study the image and answer the questions that follow.



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(i) Identify the heritage tower shown in the image and the disaster that affected it. [1]

Model answer: The image shows the Dharahara Tower in Nepal, which was affected by the Nepal earthquake of 2015.

(ii) Explain how the disaster shown in the image impacted heritage sites and tourism in the country. [2]

Model answer: Several heritage buildings and famous temples like the Pashupatinath Temple, the Durbar Square, the Dharahara Tower, the Boudhanath Stupa and the Swayambhunath Stupa were damaged. Tourism, one of Nepal's top income generators, was badly hit. The earthquake not only destroyed many tourist destinations but also killed, injured and stranded a large number of tourists from across the world.

********** End of worksheet **********

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