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Determine Technical Meanings

Definition

Determining technical meanings involves identifying specific definitions of words as used in specialized fields, which often differ from their everyday usage.

Example

Word	Everyday Meaning	Technical Meaning
Mouse	small rodent	computer pointing device
Conductor	person who leads	material allowing electrical flow
Culture	arts and customs	growing microorganisms
Table	furniture with flat surface	data structure
Run	move quickly	execute a program

Part 1: Multiple Choice Questions

Select the correct technical definition of each term as it relates to the Greenland Ice Sheet.

1. In the context of glaciology, what does "ablation" mean?
a) The slow movement of ice across land
b) The process of snow turning into ice
c) The loss of ice through melting, evaporation, or calving
d) The accumulation of new snow on a glacier's surface

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2. In glacial studies, what is the technical meaning of "calving"?
a) The birth of new animal species in Arctic regions
b) The process where chunks of ice break off from a glacier's edge
c) The formation of new glaciers from existing ice sheets
d) The seasonal migration of Arctic wildlife

3. What is the technical definition of an "ice core" in climate science?
a) The central, coldest part of the Greenland Ice Sheet
b) A cylindrical sample of ice extracted from an ice sheet to study climate history
c) The foundation of ice beneath the surface layer
d) A measuring instrument used to determine ice thickness

4. In the study of the Greenland Ice Sheet, what does the term "mass balance" technically refer to?
a) The weight distribution of scientific equipment on the ice
b) The difference between snow accumulation and ice loss over a specific time period
c) The stability of ice formations at different elevations
d) The ratio of water to frozen material in glacial ice

5. What is the technical meaning of "firn" in glaciology?
a) Old snow that has partially compacted but hasn't yet turned into glacial ice
b) The underwater portion of an iceberg
c) A type of measurement tool used by glaciologists
d) The first layer of ice that forms after a snowfall

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Part 2: Fill in the Blank
Provide the correct technical meaning for each term as it relates to the Greenland Ice Sheet.

1. "Albedo" in climate science refers to _____.

2. In glaciology, "basal sliding" technically means _____.

3. The term "equilibrium line" on the Greenland Ice Sheet refers to _____.

4. When scientists discuss "moulins" on the Greenland Ice Sheet, they are referring to _____.

5. The technical meaning of "isostatic rebound" in relation to the Greenland Ice Sheet is _____.

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Determine Technical Meanings – Answer Key

Part 1: Multiple Choice Questions
1. c) 2. b) 3. b) 4. b) 5. a)

Part 2: Fill in the Blank
1. "Albedo" in climate science refers to the percentage of solar radiation reflected by a surface (like ice or snow)

2. In glaciology, "basal sliding" technically means the movement of a glacier over bedrock facilitated by meltwater at the ice-rock interface

3. The term "equilibrium line" on the Greenland Ice Sheet refers to the boundary where the amount of new snow accumulation exactly equals the amount of ablation (ice loss)

4. When scientists discuss "moulins" on the Greenland Ice Sheet, they are referring to vertical shafts or tunnels in the ice that allow surface meltwater to flow down into the glacier

5. The technical meaning of "isostatic rebound" in relation to the Greenland Ice Sheet is the gradual rising of land masses that were depressed by the weight of ice sheets during the last glacial period