Sample Questions – Physical Geography Midterm:

1. Which of the following has the lowest albedo?
   - forest
   - snow
   - asphalt
   - grass
   - asphalt

2. During the summer, what happens to the Northern Hemisphere relative to the Circle of Illumination?
   - It spends more time (a greater angle) within the lit side so the days are longer.

3. As you fly east from Tokyo to San Francisco what happens to the date?
   - Subtract a day from your calendar.

4. What is the most important factor that controls the seasonal distribution of precipitation in tropical wet-dry (Am & Aw) climates?
   - N-S shift of STH & ITCZ.

5. The longest days of the year in the Northern Hemisphere occur during what season in the Southern Hemisphere?
   - winter in Southern Hemisphere.

6. Using the figure at right, on the last seasonal change, Dec 21, where were the Sun’s rays directly overhead at local noon?
   - C - Tropic of Capricorn.

7. What was that event called (on Dec 21)?
   - December Solstice.

8. The air that is forced to rise over another air mass is called:
   - Orographic lifting
   - Convergent lifting
   - Frontal lifting
   - Rossby lifting

9. What is located at 30ºN, 90ºW?
   - what’s left of New Orleans…

10. What accounts for the BW climate in northern Africa?
    - under STH

11. What time is it in London if it is 3pm in New York?
    - 8 pm

12. What does a strong PGF create?
    - Strong winds.

13. Is the ITCZ a low or a high? Why?
    - a Low - from rising air warmed at the equator.

14. A cold front is approaching - what can you expect the weather to be like?
    - Temperatures will drop and a sudden line of storms may come in at the squall line.

15. What does a cold front look like on a weather map?

16. What does most of the damage in a hurricane?
    - the Storm Surge.