Cloze Test

Directions (Qs.1 - 10): In the following passage, some words have been deleted. Read the passage carefully and select the appropriate option to fill in each blank.

The Himalayan region, spanning India's northern frontier, is a ..... **(1)** ..... landscape of towering peaks, deep valleys and narrow ridgelines. Its high disaster risk stems from a combination of natural and human-induced factors. Geologically young and driven by ..... **(2)** ..... activity, the Himalayas are highly prone to earthquakes that can trigger landslides and infrastructure collapse. Seasonal extremes..... from intense monsoon rainfall to rapid snowmelt ..... further increase hazard intensity, as episodes of ..... **(3)** ..... precipitation and runoff overwhelm fragile slopes and river basins. Climate change has accelerated glacial retreat, forming unstable moraine-dammed and proglacial lakes that can lead to catastrophic ..... **(4)** .....when these natural dams fail. Human actions amplify natural vulnerability: unchecked deforestation, unplanned construction on steep slopes, and poorly sited road-cuttings ..... **(5)** ..... slope stability and increase landslide frequency. The region's fragile geology and thin soils mean that vegetation loss quickly translates into erosion and slope failure, because the substrata are inherently ..... **(6)** ..... and sensitive to disturbance. Compounding this, many high-altitude communities lack reliable early warning systems and resilient evacuation routes, while local disaster management capacity is often limited ..... a governance and infrastructure gap that ..... **(7)** ..... timely response. To reduce risk, policy must prioritise community-centred measures such as local hazard mapping, regular drills, and strengthening traditional knowledge networks so that preparedness becomes ..... **(8)** ..... and bottom-up. Scientific interventions are equally important: establishing comprehensive glacial and hydrological monitoring networks, real-time rainfall gauges, and remote-sensing platforms can improve lead time for warnings and support targeted mitigation. Equally critical is stricter land-use planning and enforcement; zoning steep slopes, restricting vulnerable construction, and promoting reforestation. So decisions are guided by risk maps rather than short-term economic gains. Investment in resilient infrastructure (safe roads, bridges, and multipurpose shelters), combined with insurance schemes and livelihood diversification, will reduce long-term exposure. Ultimately, an integrated approach that combines science, governance, finance and community action is required to ..... **(9)** ..... hazard impacts and build adaptive capacity across the Indian Himalayas. If implemented consistently, these strategies can transform a reactive posture into a proactive one and help secure lives, ecosystems and development gains in this environmentally ..... **(10)** ..... mountain region.

1. Select the most appropriate option for blank .....(1).....
A) marshy B) rugged
C) uniform D) homogenous
2. Select the most appropriate option for blank .....(2).....
A) tectonic B) volcanic
C) glacial D) human
3. Select the most appropriate option for blank .....(3).....
A) moderate B) predictable
C) constant D) erratic
4. Select the most appropriate option for blank .....(4).....
A) avalanches B) droughts
C) Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs) D) wildfires
5. Select the most appropriate option for blank .....(5).....
A) enhance B) stabilize
C) undermine D) improve
6. Select the most appropriate option for blank .....(6).....
A) resilient B) porous
C) durable D) impervious
7. Select the most appropriate option for blank .....(7).....
A) hinders B) enables
C) guarantees D) accelerates
8. Select the most appropriate option for blank .....(8).....
A) sporadic B) individual
C) centralised D) community-led
9. Select the most appropriate option for blank .....(9).....
A) magnify B) neutralise
C) mitigate D) legalise
10. Select the most appropriate option for blank .....(10) .....
A) biodiverse
B) barren
C) polluted
D) urbanised

KEY

1-B, 2-A, 3-D, 4-C, 5-C, 6-B, 7-A, 8-D, 9-C, 10-A.