Subject 4 (Term 2): Gold Mining in the Witwatersrand

Question 1: Excavation of Gold
Study the diagram below and answer the questions that follow:

1.1 Explain the process of gold mining by referencing to the diagram above. (5)

1.2 South Africa had the largest gold deposits in the world. Where was the gold located? (3)

1.3 Which company was founded by Cecil John Rhodes during the time of the gold rush? (1)

1.4 List seven dangers at the time experienced by miners underground. (7)
Question 2: Discovery and Mining of Gold in the Witwatersrand
Choose the correct answer from the following options:

2.1 Gold was first discovered in South Africa in the _____________.
   a) West Transvaal
   b) East Transvaal
   c) North Transvaal

2.2 Diggers were already digging in the area of Blyderivier near a town with the name of _________.
   a) Potgietersrus
   b) Potchefstroom
   c) Pelgrimsrus

2.3 In 1886 George Harrison discovered gold in the rocks on a farm called _________.
   a) Langlaagte
   b) Witwatersrand
   c) Johannesburg

2.4 George Harrison sold his discovery-claim and moved to the _________________.
   a) West Transvaal
   b) East Transvaal
   c) North Transvaal

2.5 The following men were prominent mining magnates:
   a) Cecil John Rhodes and Alfred Beit
   b) Barney Barnato and JB Robinson
   c) Both A and B

2.6 The name Johannesburg is comprised of three names: Johannes Joubert, Johan Rissik and_____.
   a) Johannes Maarschalk
   b) Johannes Meyer
   c) Johannes Maree

2.7 The president of South Africa during the gold rush was _____________.
   a) Paul Kruger
   b) Piet Joubert
   c) Martinus Wessel Pretorius

2.8 Two repercussions of the gold rush in South Africa were______________
   a) Industrialization and urbanisation
   b) Immigration and urbanisation
   c) Both A and B
2.9 This rush caused the ‘goudwatersrif and was later known as ___________.
   a) Egoli
   b) Johannesburg
   c) Witwatersrand

2.10 The government of the Old Transvaal was called the ___________.
   a) Randlords
   b) House of Assembly
   c) Parliament

Question 3: Important Figures and the Chamber of Mines
Answer the following questions in full:

3.1 Explain each person’s role throughout the course of the gold rush:
   a) Edward Lippert
   b) Samuel Marks
   c) Sir Herbert Baker
   d) Hermann Eckstein
   e) President Paul Kruger

3.2 Explain what the Chamber of Mines was and the purpose its served.

Question 4: Labour Resistance
Answer the following questions:

4.1 Who organised the Jameson Raid and how were they affected by it?
4.2 Explain what is meant by passive resistance.
4.3 What was the purpose of the protests carried out by the foreigners?
4.4 By whom was the Satyagraha organised and what is its meaning?

Total: 50
Question 1: Excavation of Gold

1.1 A: A pit is dug out straight down into the ground.
B: A lift or elevator is used to lower and raise the miners.
C: Tunnels are dug out sideways from the pit towards the gold ore.
D: The miners shoot the rocks into manageable pieces with the use of dynamite and then brings it to the surface.
E: The rocks are taken to the surface where it is treated with chemicals for refinement before it can be used.

1.2 It stretches out in a curve of 65 km east of Johannesburg, 145 km west of Johannesburg and continues on 320 km south toward the Orange Free State.

1.3 Consolidated Gold Fields

1.4 Temperatures were very high and could reach 45°C underground. There was a lot of moisture and flooding occurred. Roofs collapsed causing stones and rocks to plummet down on workers. Poisonous gasses (such as Methane) were present and sometimes led to explosions. People experienced claustrophobia in the tiny tunnels. Workers frequently inhaled small particles of dust, which in turn led to lung diseases. Air circulation was in a tragic state and they struggled to breathe. At times they were trapped because of accidental mud and rock deposits.

Question 2: Discovery and Mining of Gold in the Witwatersrand

2.1 B
2.2 C
2.3 A
2.4 B
2.5 C
2.6 B
2.7 A
2.8 A
2.9 C
2.10 B
Question 3: Important Figures and the Chamber of Mines

3.1 a) Edward Lippert
He was the only supplier of the appropriate dynamite used in mines and subsequently made a 200% profit.

b) Samuel Marks
He had multiple interests including coal mining, glassware, food-processing factories, masonry and beer breweries.

c) Sir Herbert Baker
He designed considerable mansions (for the owners or managers) on the opposite side of the mines, away from the pollution.

d) Hermann Eckstein
He was the first president of the Chamber of Mines and hired competent and qualified engineers from abroad to apply the latest technology in the mines.

e) President Paul Kruger
He fought for the independence of the Afrikaners in the Transvaal.

3.2 It was a group of British men that represented 21 mines.
The Chamber of Mines intended to work together to accomplish the same policy for labour and supplier prices. The only way they could make a profit, was by cutting labour costs.

Question 4: Labour Resistance

4.1 Cecil John Rhodes and Alfred Beit
Cecil John Rhodes was so humiliated by the failed raid that he resigned his position of Prime Minister of the Cape.

4.2 To rise up to the government without using violence, but by not obeying the laws of the government.

4.3 They wanted the right to vote in order to implement their own laws for the mines and gaining control over the republic.

4.4 It was organised by Mahatma Gandhi and Satyagraha means “Power of Truth”.