

# Ocean circulation: quiz 2

This quiz aims at testing your knowledge regarding the most fundamental aspects of lecture 1. Qualitative statements are expected.

## 1. Observations.

- What are the two main sources of observations for large-scale properties of the ocean?
- What is the main means of observation of ocean dynamics?
- How do oceanographers usually estimate currents?

## 2. Modelling. What are the main applications of ocean modelling?

## 3. Challenges. Name three current challenges of physical oceanography that seem most relevant to you.

## 4. Hydrography.

- What are the two main large-scale patterns of sea surface temperature and what causes them?
- How does the 500m temperature map relate to the sea level? How do you interpret it in light of a two-layer model?
- In the vertical, what are the three main oceanic layers? Where and how is the deep layer formed?

## 5. Circulation.

- Where are surface currents most and least intense?
- Based on dynamic sea level isolines, identify the main North Atlantic and North Pacific gyres.
- What are the two main sources of oceanic gravity waves? Where are they generated and how do they impact greatly ocean circulation?

## 6. Air-sea fluxes.

- What is the main source of ocean heating (respectively cooling)?
- Where is the ocean heated (respectively cooled)? What do you deduce regarding its circulation?
- What is the physical nature of the surface wind stress? Where is it most intense?
- What are the main patterns of sea surface salinity? How do they relate to air-sea water exchanges?

## 7. Climate.

- How does the heat imbalance related to climate change compare to individual terms of surface air-sea fluxes? What can you conclude?
- What are the two main roles of ocean on global climate?
- At which latitudes is the ocean most important for the poleward heat transport of the climate system?