



# Science of the Surf Quiz

## How safe are you in the surf?

Before you look at any of the fact sheets on the website, or attend one of the SOS talks, try taking this quiz to see how much you understand about beaches and the surf. Make sure you are honest with your answers as you may be in for a shock (or a well-deserved surf)! Answer the questions, count up your points and contact Dr Rob Brander at the Science of the Surf website for an answer guide. <http://www.scienceofthesurf.com/contact.html>  
Then you can see what type of beach goer you are!

**Teachers/Students** – try doing this quiz before and after you see the Science of the Surf!

### 1. How often do you go to the beach (pick one)?

- a) once a year = 1 point
- b) a few times each summer = 2 points
- c) a fair bit all year = 3 points
- d) all the time, I'm a surfer = 4 points

### 2. How many beaches in Australia have flags and lifeguards? (2 points)

- a) none of them
- b) about 10% of them (1 in 10)
- c) about half of them
- d) all of them

### 3. When you go to the beach, how often do you swim between the flags (pick one)

- a) what are the flags? = 0 points
- b) never = 1 point
- c) some of the time = 2 points
- d) always = 3 points

### 4. What is the difference between wind and swell waves? (4 points)

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# Science of the Surf Quiz

Page 2 of 5

5. Name the 3 types of breaking waves shown in the pictures below: (3 points)

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_



a



b



c

6. What is the most dangerous type of breaking wave and why? (4 points)

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7. Why do some waves break by plunging and others by spilling? (4 points)

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# Science of the Surf Quiz

Page 3 of 5

**8. What is the safest way to bodysurf? (2 points)**

- a) with your hands behind your back
- b) with one arm held in front of you
- c) with both arms held in front of you
- d) on a plunging wave

**9. Why are rock platforms dangerous? (2 points)**

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**10. What is a rip current and why do they form? (4 points)**

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**11. List 3 things you should look for when trying to spot a rip current: (3 points)**

- i) \_\_\_\_\_
- ii) \_\_\_\_\_
- iii) \_\_\_\_\_



# Science of the Surf Quiz

Page 4 of 5

12. List 3 things you should do if you get caught in a rip current: (3 points)

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

13. All beaches in Australia are the same (2 points)

True      False

14. Beaches with bars and rips change all the time (2 points)

True      False

15. Can you spot the rip? Draw arrows to show the rip current(s): (4 points)





# Science of the Surf Quiz

Page 5 of 5

**16. How many people a year drown on our beaches in an average year? (2 points)**

- a) just a few
- b) more people are attacked by sharks
- c) about 60
- d) about 30

**17. What's the main cause of the over 12,000 rescues that are performed by lifeguards every summer? (2 points)**

- a) people swimming outside the flags
- b) people not understanding how the surf works
- c) rip currents
- d) all of the above

**How do you rate?**

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| <b>45-50</b> | <b>Surf expert!</b>                                 |
| <b>40-45</b> | <b>You'd be safe at most beaches</b>                |
| <b>30-40</b> | <b>You know a bit, but should know more</b>         |
| <b>20-30</b> | <b>Better swim between the flags!</b>               |
| <b>10-20</b> | <b>Hope you are supervised when you go swimming</b> |
| <b>0-10</b>  | <b>Don't go in the water!</b>                       |

**For a complete answer guide, please contact Dr Rob Brander**

Science of the Surf  
www.scienceofthesurf.com  
Dr Rob Brander [rbrander@unsw.edu.au](mailto:rbrander@unsw.edu.au)  
0401 420 9625.