

The Properties of Sea Water

Chapter 6: The Properties of Sea Water · Topic 1

Key Concept

Salinity refers to the amount of dissolved salts in seawater, typically around 35 parts per thousand, though it varies by location.

Sea water temperature varies with depth and latitude, generally warmer near the surface and equator, colder in depths and polar regions.

Density of seawater is affected by both salinity and temperature - colder, saltier water is denser and sinks below warmer, less salty water.

These properties influence ocean currents, marine ecosystems, and climate patterns, making them important for understanding ocean geography.

Quick Revision Notes

- Salinity: dissolved salts, ~35 parts per thousand.
- Varies by location.
- Temperature varies by depth, latitude.
- Warmer near surface, equator.
- Colder in depths, polar regions.
- Density affected by salinity, temperature.
- Colder, saltier water is denser, sinks.
- These properties affect currents, ecosystems, climate.

Practice Questions

- 1 Research the average salinity of the ocean.
- 2 Discuss how temperature varies with ocean depth.
- 3 Discuss why denser water sinks.
- 4 Research how salinity affects marine life.
- 5 Discuss the connection between these properties and currents.
- 6 Explain seawater properties in your own words.