Rainwater: Problem or Resource?

Read the texts and choose the correct answer (A, B or C).

Text A - Where does rainwater go?

Rainwater can soak into the soil, evaporate, be taken up by plants or flow across the ground. Water that flows over the surface is called runoff. In towns, roofs, asphalt and concrete often prevent water from soaking into the soil. During heavy rainfall, runoff can build up faster than drains can carry it away, causing local flooding. Green infrastructure helps manage rainwater. A rain garden temporarily collects runoff and allows water to soak into suitable soil. Green roofs retain some rainfall, while permeable pavements let water pass through their surface.

Text B - Turning rain into a resource

Rainwater harvesting means collecting and storing rainwater for later use. A school could collect rain from its roof in a covered tank and use it to water garden plants instead of using drinking water. Untreated roof runoff is not safe for drinking or handwashing. Digital rain gauges measure rainfall; tank-level sensors monitor stored water.

1. Why can sealed surfaces increase local flooding?

A. They increase infiltration.
B. They limit infiltration and increase runoff.
C. They stop rainfall.

2. Which pair contains two green infrastructure solutions?

A. Rain gardens and green roofs.
B. Asphalt roads and concrete slabs.
C. Metal roofs and plastic sheets.

3. How can schools use untreated roof rainwater?

A. For drinking.
B. For handwashing.
C. To water suitable garden plants.

4. Which tool measures rainfall?

A. A tank-level sensor.
B. A digital rain gauge.
C. A thermometer.

5. What does a tank-level sensor monitor?

A. The level of stored water.
B. Air temperature.
C. Rainfall depth.

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