

**Q. 2. Read the following passage and answer the questions given at the end:** (20)

"Piecing together the story of human evolution is no easy task. The anthropologist Richard Leakey has identified four key steps in our evolution from the earliest HAMINID to modern humans. First, the occurrence of BEPEDILISM between 10 and 4 million years ago. Then the evolution of Homo, with its large brain and capacity to make stone tools the earliest examples of which are 2.5 million years old. Next, the evolution of Homo erectus almost 2 million years ago, followed by its migration out of Africa into Eurasia. And finally the appearance of modern human less than 150000 years ago.

"Through the 10 million years of human evolution, the Earth's climate has changed considerably. During the period that Michael Sarrnthein of Kiel has called the "Golden era" up to 3 million years ago-the world was much warmer than it is now. Then conditions started to deteriorate, and there was a gradual build-up of ice at the poles. Around 2.6 million years ago the climate became cyclical: ice ages characterized by huge ice sheets covering much of Northern America and Northern Europe were followed by INTERGLACIAL, when conditions were comparable to those we see today. Elizabeth Verbal of Yale University, one of most vigorous proponents of the idea of punctuated equilibrium, has shown that this change in the world's climate 2.6 million years ago had sudden and dramatic effects in Africa. A predominantly warm, and moist climate was transformed into one which was colder and more arid." (Mark Maslin).

**Questions:**

1. Give dictionary meanings of the underlined words.
2. How did the climate become cyclical?
3. Define the term "Golden era"
4. Describe the various stages in the development of the human species.



## Comprehension

Q.1

Words	Meanings
HAMINID	Human
Bipedalism	Two-footed
Interglacial	Between two glaciers

2

Climate became cyclic as the humans went through the evolution process in almost 10 million years. Initially, the climate was warmer than today, then it transformed into ice age followed by similar climate conditions as today.

3

According to Michael Sarnthein, "Golden era" refers to almost 3 million years ago when the world was warmer than it is today.

4) Human evolution comprises 4 stages according to Richard Leakey. Bipedalism was the first stage of human evolution between some 10 and 4 million years ago, followed by the evolution of Homo, almost 2.5 years ago. Third stage was about 2 million years ago when Homo erectus was evolved leading to the evolution of modern human less than 150,000 years ago.