Q. Here is an excerpt from the autobiography of a short story writer. Read it carefully and answer the questions that follow. (2005)

My father loved all instruments that would instruct and fascinate. His place to keep things was the drawer in the 'library table' where lying on top of his folder map was a telescope with brass extensions, to find the moon and the Big Dripper after supper in our front yard, and to keep appointments with eclipses. In the back of the drawer you could find a magnifying glass, a kaleidoscope and a gyroscope kept in black buckram box, which he would set dancing for us on a string pulled tight. He had also supplied himself with an assortment of puzzles composed of
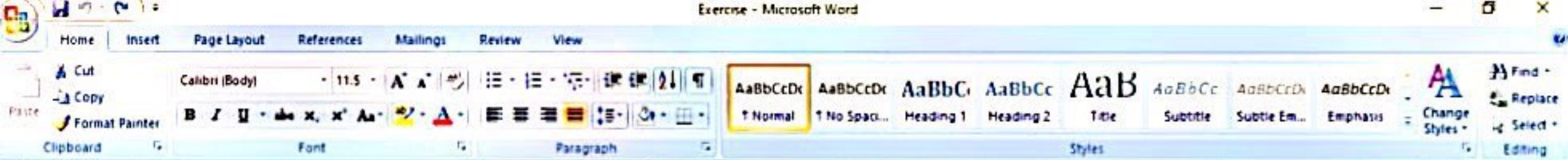
Questions

a. why did the writer's father spend time studying the skies ? (3)

b. why the writer thinks that there was no need of a barometer? (3)

c. what does the bright horizon meant for the writer's father ? (3)

d. How did her father influence the writer in her later years ? (3)

e. explain the underlined words and phrases in the passage. (8)

why did the writer's father spend time studying the skies?

The writer's father spend time studying the skies because he had a childlike love with it. So, he collected many instruments for exploration of many events occuring on sky. ~~ans is a bit short~~

why the writer thinks that there was no need of a barometer?

The writer thinks that there is no need of a barometer in dinning room. Because her father was as much expert in weather prediction that he could predict weather just by sniffing?

(C) What does the bright horizon meant for the writer's father?

The writer's father think that bright horizon is a rescue point in case of habitant loss. Actually, bright colour predicted that there is a river in the region. So, more towards river and you will find population there. ✓

(d) How did her father influence the writer in her later years?

The writer was influenced by her father as she had developed meteorological sensibility. The change in weather and inner feelings was synchronized in a dramatic form in her writings.

Explain the underlined words and phrases in the passage.

keep appointments: To know the exact position of something as in the passage the occurance of eclipse.

Kaleidoscope: An instrument containing pieces of plastics or glass inside two glass plates and two glass mirrors on sides. When the position of plastics or glass changes light is reflected from glass mirrors and create endless patterns.

Assortment: Heaps of things or collection of things as in the passage collection of various telescopes, puzzely bones and others to explore the sky.

To take apart: To divide into parts, dismantle or disassemble. The father took his collection apart from children after showing them.

Barometer: An instrument use to measure atmospheric pressure. It is usually used by meteorologists. In the passage, father kept barometer in the dinning room where it was not necessary.

Strike out: Search / identify / striving for something. The father advises his children in case of loss of direction, strike out for a river and you will find population there.

Stood apart: To keep oneself away from something. In the passage, mother was not interested in the actions of father so she stood apart and mocking at her actions. precautions.

Q. 2. Write a précis of the following and suggest a suitable title: (20)

The fear of human beings when faced with the mysteries of life and their weakness by comparison with the vastness of nature created in them a need to communicate with the divine, with the superior powers which they believed regulated the universe and determined their own fates. Knowledge of wishes of the gods was always a sure guide for human behavior. In ancient Greece, the precise nature of these wishes was 'decoded' by the art of giving oracles, practiced by soothsayers who had the gift of understanding the signs or signals sent by the gods.

The soothsayers uttered their oracles by interpreting flashes of lightening, rolls of thunder or the flights of certain birds of prey (omens); alternatively, they might observe the direction in which the fire burned when a sacrifice was made, examine the entrails of animals which had just been sacrificed, or base judgments on the sacrificial beast's willingness to approach the altar. The interpretation of dreams was popular too, and so was palmistry. The most notable soothsayers of ancient Greece were Tiresias, Calchas, Helenus, Amphiaraus and Cassandra.

However, there were abundant instances in which the gods did not manifest themselves to the faithful in the forms of signs but spoke directly to an intermediate who for a short time was overcome by a 'divine mania' and transcended his own human essence. Here the prophet- or more usually the prophetess- entered a state of ecstasy in which he or she delivered the message from the gods to the suppliants.

These practices for foreseeing the future were the basis on which the ancient Greek oracles operated. Each oracle was located within a properly-organized sanctuary and was directly associated with one or other of the gods. Apollo was the archetypal soothsayer for the Greeks, the god who was responsible for conveying to mortals the decisions pronounced by Zeus. The most important of all the oracles, that at the Delphi, delivered the messages with the intervention of Apollo, while the oldest that of Dodona, functioned with the assistance of Zeus.

Greek's ways of Communication with God

In human life, the inexplicable events of life and other weaknesses, were always addressed through a communication with God. In ancient Greece, that communication was linked with the knowledge of wishes of God as the only way to guide man. Later, these wishes were declassified by the art of giving oracles through soothsayers. The soothsayers predicted the future by observing different events occuring in nature. In constrast, sometimes God addressed directly to an intermediator. So, the Prophet conveyed Divine Message to His Prophet. Ancient Greek oracles intially were practised on the base of intend this to know the future and each oracle was connected with the God.

Q.2. Write a précis of the following passage in about 120 words and also suggest a suitable title:

(20)

It is in the temperate countries of northern Europe that the beneficial effects of cold are most manifest. A cold climate seems to stimulate energy by acting as an obstacle. In the face of an insuperable obstacle our energies are numbed by despair; the total absence of obstacles, on the other hand leaves no room for the exercise and training of energy; but a struggle against difficulties that we have a fair hope of over-coming, calls into active operation all our powers. In like manner, while intense cold numbs human energies, and a hot climate affords little motive for exertion, moderate cold seems to have a bracing effect on the human race. In a moderately cold climate man; is engaged in an arduous, but no hopeless struggles and with the inclemency of the weather. He has to build strong houses and procure thick clothes to keep himself warm. To supply fuel for his fires, he must hew down trees and dig coal out of the earth. In the open all, unless he moves quickly, he will suffer pain from the biting wind. Finally, in order to replenish the expenditure of bodily tissue caused by his necessary exertions, he has to procure for himself plenty of nourishing food.

Quite different is the lot of man in the tropics. In the neighbourhood of the equator there is little need of clothes or fire, and it is possible with perfect comfort and no danger to health, to pass the livelong day stretched out on the bare ground beneath the shade of a tree. A very little fruit or vegetable food is required to sustain life under such circumstances, and that little can be obtained without much exertion from the bounteous earth.

We may recognize must the same difference between ourselves at different seasons of the year, as there is between human nature in the tropics and in temperate climes. In hot

weather we are generally languid and inclined to take life easily; but when the cold season comes, we find that we are more inclined to vigorous exertion of our minds and bodies.

Changing Weather and their Impacts

The Winter season and its enjoyable effects are mostly observed in Temperate regions of Northern Europe. As intense cold diminishes human energies, while hot climate leads people towards sedentory lifestyle. But moderate cold climate brings productive results; man build strong shelter for themselves, cut trees for fuel and dig coal out from the earth. And to keep themselves energetic they take healthy food. However, in tropical regions man has to do nothing more for his survival. He can spend his life just under the shade of a tree and with minimum food. The same difference is observed in individuals nature during different seasons as in summer people are spare mentally and bodily while in winter they works strennously.