

Q. 3 Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

(20)

Forecasting the weather, or trying to find out what it will be like in several day's time, has always been a difficult business. Many different things affect the weather and each one has to be carefully studied before we can make even a fairly accurate forecast. The ancient Egyptians, of course, had no need of this-the weather in the Nile valley hardly ever changes-but people living farther north had to protect themselves and their crops. During a period of drought, when no rain fell for weeks on end, streams and rivers dried up, cattle died from thirst and crops were ruined. A storm could wreck ships and houses, and heavy falls of rain caused rivers to flood a whole countryside. Action in the sky stirred man into action, and in this respect farmers became just as much men of action as were sailors on the high seas. Both had to reckon with the weather-it often upset their plans, sometimes with disastrous results. In early times, when there were no instruments such as thermometer or barometer, man looked for tell-tale signs in the sky. He made his forecasts by watching the flights of birds or the way smoke rose from a fire. He thought that the moon controlled the weather-that it held a lot of water, especially when as a crescent sickle-shaped moon it lay on its back. Even today there are people who think that the sight of the moon lying on its back means that the rain is on its way. Many of the weather sayings are still heard today. I expect you know the one: 'A red sky at night is the shepherd's delight. A red sky in the morning is the shepherd's warning.' Do you believe this? It's sometimes right but more often wrong. If this and hundreds of other sayings like it were true, there would be no need for weather science or meteorology.

Questions:

NOA MOCKS.

(Comprehension).

Q1) What is drought and what are its consequences?

Ans. Drought means the absence of rain. It is a period where rain does not fall for weeks and everything starts to dry up. Drought also has some serious consequences. It causes streams and rivers to dry out and cattle die due to thirst.

Q2) Does the writer endorse the popular sayings about the red sky?

Ans. ~~No~~,^T the writer does not endorse the popular sayings about the red sky. Old beliefs about red sky at night being a shepherd's delight, while the red sky in the morning being a warning seem unbelievable. The reason is that such predictions went wrong. If such popular sayings were true, then science would have not existed today.

Q3) Is weather forecasting a science; if so, what is it called?

Weather forecasting is a science. The process through which weather forecasting

is done is called meteorology in contemporary times. However, it did not exist previously because people used to make predictions with the help of traditional methods like watching the movement of birds.

Q4) Why is it not easy to forecast the weather?

Ans. Forecasting weather has never been easy due to its unpredictability. Different factors affect the weather and each factor has to be studied carefully. Careful approach is necessary to make an accurate forecast. Moreover, if weather conditions are stable in one area, then it is not necessary that they would be stable in another region.

Q5) How would the moon help the people in forecasting weather?

Ans. Moon helped people in forecasting the weather by its shape. Previously, people thought that moon controlled the weather by holding a lot of water. Moreover, it held more water when it had a crescent shape and it laid on its back. The absence of instruments like barometer and thermometer enabled ^{people} to make weather forecasts ~~with~~ the moon by observing.

Decent attempt.