

## Example 8

In the past, man's worst enemy was Nature. He lived under the continual threat of famine and pestilence; a wet summer could bring death to whole nations, and every winter was a menace. Mountains stood like a barrier between people and people; a sea was less a highway than an impassable division. Today, Nature, though still an enemy, is an enemy almost completely conquered. Modern transportation has made the resources of the entire planet accessible to all its inhabitants. Modern medicine and sanitation allow dense populations to cover the ground without risk of pestilence. True, we are still at the mercy of the more violent natural convulsions. Against earthquake, flood, and hurricane man has, as yet, devised no adequate protection. But these major cataclysms are rare. At most times, Nature is no longer formidable; she has been subdued.

**Read the passage above and answer the following questions in your own words**

1. In what way was Nature the enemy of man in the past?
2. How has Nature been subdued or conquered today?
3. To what extent has man not yet been able to conquer Nature?
4. Give the meanings of the following words and expressions: pestilence; impassable division; natural convulsions; hurricane; cataclysms.

**Answers**

### Example 8

#### A (1)

In the past, nature was the worst enemy of man. Man lived under different threat of nature, many people died because of heat in summer. And winter was also difficult for people at that time. Mountain was a barrier between people.

#### A (2)

Although, nature is still an enemy of a man, but today it has been conquered. Today's modern transportation makes it possible for people to connect with each other. Advancements in medicine allow populations to deal with different diseases.

#### A (3)

Today's man has not yet been able to conquer nature. Because many natural disaster such as earthquakes, flood and hurricane are still violent for a man. And still there is no proper protection for that.

#### A (4)

Pestilence : diseases

Hurricanes : tropical cyclones