

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:

- i. What is drought and what are its consequences?
 - ii. Does the writer endorse the popular sayings about the red sky?
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- iii. Is weather forecasting a science; if so, what is it called?
 - iv. Why is it not easy to forecast the weather?
 - v. How would the moon help the people in forecasting weather?

Q3

1.

A drought is an undesirable event which impacts agricultural production. Drought means a period when there is water scarcity because of no rain for weeks. The consequences of drought are streams and rivers being dried up, cattle dying because of no water and crops damage as well.

2.

The writer has not endorse the popular sayings about weather forecast completely. The writer mentions the popular saying about the red sky as "A red sky at night is the shepherd's delight. ~~And~~ A red sky in the morning is the shepherd's warning". But the writer says that these sayings are not completely right as they sometimes proves to be wrong in actual. Therefore, the writer do not completely agrees with

endorses the popular sayings.

3. weather forecasting is a science. This science in which the weather is forecasted using different tools like barometer and thermometer is called as "Meteorology".

4. weather forecasting has always been a difficult task. This is so because there are several factors that impacts weather. All these factors should be studied carefully so that there will be no room of mistake in the forecast.

5. In the past times, man used to forecast weather by looking at the shape of the moon; this method is used by some people. As per this method, if the moon is laying on its back, then it means rain is ~~on~~ about to happen. So, a crescent shape moon means that it holds

a lot of water on its back - a
sign of rain.