

**Read the following passage, then answer the questions (50 Marks):**

Weather has a powerful impact on the physical world. It also affects people's personalities. How do we know about the effects of weather on people? We know from biometeorologists. These scientists study weather. They study how atmospheric conditions affect human health and emotions. The word atmosphere means "the air around the earth". "Atmospheric conditions at a time or place" is a definition of the word weather. Some examples of these conditions are sun, wind, rain, snow, humidity, and air pressure (the force of air). The weather conditions of the atmosphere greatly influence people's health, thinking, and feelings.

**B.** All over the world, researchers have studied how wind affects human health. Strong winds may result in a change in air pressure and temperature which can be harmful to people. According to biometeorologists in Russia, powerful winds are known to increase the number of people who have strokes (blood vessel attacks in the brain). Also, Italian researchers have found that during times of strong winds, Italians have more heart attacks (sudden stopping of the heart). And Japanese weather scientists say forceful winds often cause an increase in the number of asthma attacks. (Asthma is a lung disorder. It causes breathing problems.) People have also experienced bad headaches because of powerful winds.

**C.** Other kinds of weather influence physical health. Sudden temperature changes in winter are **associated** with a cold or the flu. However, colds and flu increase because people are in close contact indoors in cold weather. Colds and flu may even lead to pneumonia (a lung disease). In most places, blood diseases and heart attacks are more common in winter. But in some very hot and humid regions, there are more heart attacks in summer. Many people have high blood pressure. In three out of four people, blood pressure falls in warm weather.

**D.** These forces of nature greatly affect people's moods, too. For many people, winter in the northern regions is very depressing. They eat and sleep a lot, but they usually feel tired. They are nervous and can't work well. Biometeorologists even have a name for this condition. The name is Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD). Scientists think the cause of this mood disorder is the long periods of darkness. Even during the day, it is often cloudy or gray. What can people with SAD do about their moods? Naturally, they need more light! On bright days they feel better. But people don't work very well on sunny, hot, and humid days. The best weather for good work and thinking is cool and clear.

**E.** Are the people around you becoming sick more often? Are they getting more colds or the flu, or even pneumonia? Are they having more health problems? Or are you becoming moody? Are you getting more tired or depressed (low in mood) or sad? Remember – according to biometeorologists, the cause may be the atmosphere!

**Questions:**

1. What is the main idea of the passage?
2. According to scientists, what might be the cause of people's depression?
3. In which paragraph does the writer talk about the effect of weather on people's feelings?
4. What does the pronoun "They" in paragraph A, line 2, most probably refer to?
5. What does the word "associated" in Paragraph C most probably mean?
6. According to..... biometeorologists, powerful winds can cause lung problems.  
A. Japanese                      B. Italian                      C. Russian                      D. American
7. The writer mentions air pressure in in paragraph A as an example of..... (Complete)
8. What can be inferred from the last paragraph concerning weather?
9. According to the passage, what is the effect of warm weather on blood pressure?
10. Compose two wh/questions on the passage.

**2. Explain the meaning of the following words, giving examples of your own (20 Marks):**

dismal	unforeseen	numb	resent	shriek	torrent	blend
devise	descend	utilize	villain	vanish	assemble	burde
detect	evade	thorough	defraud	postpone	denounce	

**Finished**

♥ Good Luck ♥

**Dr. Ashraf Kouta**