The weather

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

UPPER-INTERMEDIATE | B2

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1 Match each precise weather term with its definition.

1 damp	____	a a long period with little or no rain
2 muggy	____	b hot, slightly wet and uncomfortable
3 stifling	____	c a very strong wind
4 frost	____	d a thin layer of ice on surfaces
5 thaw	____	e extremely heavy rain
6 downpour	____	f slightly wet and unpleasant
7 torrential rain	____	g so hot that it is difficult to breathe
8 drought	____	h a sudden period of very heavy rain
9 gale	____	i become unfrozen as temperature rises
10 overcast	____	j covered with cloud

2 Order the intensity scales. For visibility, move from clearest to poorest.

Rain	downpour | shower | torrential rain | heavy rain
Wind	gale | gentle breeze | hurricane | strong wind
Heat	boiling hot | hot | mild | warm
Visibility	clear | dense fog | light mist | patchy fog

3 Match the beginnings and endings to form natural weather statements.

1 Temperatures soared	____	a after sunrise, restoring visibility
2 Temperatures plummeted	____	b as the storm approached the coast
3 The fog lifted	____	c despite brief showers
4 The rain eased	____	d once warmer air arrived
5 The wind strengthened	____	e to a record 39°C
6 The river burst	____	f its banks after overnight rain
7 The ice melted	____	g below freezing after sunset
8 The drought persisted	____	h towards evening, leaving only drizzle

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4 Complete the climate summary with words and phrases from the box.

annual rainfall | coastal breeze | drought | flooding | heatwaves | humid | mild | seasonal | snowfall | torrential rain

The region has a largely **1** _____ climate, although conditions vary with altitude. Winters on the coast are generally **2** _____, while inland districts receive regular **3** _____. Summer days are hot and **4** _____, but an afternoon **5** _____ often provides relief. Most of the **6** _____ falls between October and March. Short bursts of **7** _____ can cause flash **8** _____. In recent years, longer **9** _____ and more frequent **10** _____ have placed pressure on water supplies and agriculture.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

The urban heat-island effect

Cities are often warmer than nearby rural areas, particularly after sunset. Dark roofs, roads and concrete absorb solar energy during the day and release it slowly at night. Tall buildings may also reduce airflow, while traffic, air conditioning and industry add waste heat. The effect is strongest during calm, cloudless weather and can make heatwaves more dangerous because residents receive less relief overnight. Not all neighbourhoods are affected equally: districts with little tree cover and large paved areas are usually hotter. Measures such as planting trees, creating shaded spaces and using reflective roofs can lower surface temperatures, but they work best as part of long-term urban planning.

1 When is the temperature difference often most noticeable? _____

2 How do dark urban surfaces affect temperature? _____

3 Name two human sources of waste heat. _____

4 In which weather is the heat-island effect strongest? _____

5 Which neighbourhoods are usually hottest? _____

6 What three measures can reduce surface temperatures? _____

6 Rewrite each sentence using the word in capitals. Do not change the meaning.

1 The rain became less intense in the evening. **EASED** _____

2 The temperature fell very quickly after sunset. **PLUMMETED** _____

3 The frozen ground became soft as it warmed. **THAWED** _____

4 The hot spell continued for twelve days. **PERSISTED** _____

OVER TO YOU

Write a **120-150 word** climate profile for a real or imaginary region. Explain seasonal patterns, one extreme-weather risk and how local geography affects conditions.

[ ] Use at least twelve target expressions. [ ] Include changes and intensity accurately. [ ] Organise the profile clearly.

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ANSWER KEY

1 Precise weather terms

1 **f** 2 **b** 3 **g** 4 **d** 5 **i** 6 **h** 7 **e** 8 **a** 9 **c** 10 **j**

2 Scales

Rain: shower → heavy rain → downpour → torrential rain
Wind: gentle breeze → strong wind → gale → hurricane
Heat: mild → warm → hot → boiling hot
Visibility: clear → light mist → patchy fog → dense fog

3 Natural weather statements

1 **e** 2 **g** 3 **a** 4 **h** 5 **b** 6 **f** 7 **d** 8 **c**

4 Climate summary

1 **seasonal** 2 **mild** 3 **snowfall** 4 **humid** 5 **coastal breeze** 6 **annual rainfall** 7 **torrential rain** 8 **flooding** 9 **drought** 10 **heatwaves**

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 After sunset.
2 They absorb solar energy and release it slowly at night.
3 Any two: traffic, air conditioning, industry.
4 Calm, cloudless weather.
5 Those with little tree cover and large paved areas.
6 Planting trees, creating shade and using reflective roofs.

6 Rewriting - possible answers

1 The rain **eased** in the evening. 2 The temperature **plummeted** after sunset. 3 The frozen ground **thawed**. 4 The hot spell **persisted** for twelve days.

Over to you: Answers will vary. Check range, precision and a clear link between geography and weather.