

Read carefully the passage printed below and answer the questions that follow, using your own words as far as possible and writing in complete sentences. Notice how many marks are available for each question.

The passage is taken from Seal Morning, an autobiographical book by Rowena Farr, in which she recounts the time she spent living with her aunt on a lonely farm (called a croft) in the north of Scotland. She enjoyed being close to nature, especially seeing the seals, but life there could be hard and dangerous, as this extract shows.

A change had come over the sky since I had last taken note of it: the blue was not so intense and thin vaporous clouds were forming. Down a cleft of the corrie blew a long streamer of mist. The sight of it made me double my pace. I remembered then that I had come without a compass as I had not planned when setting out to go so high or so far.

5 More and more clouds were forming in the sky and puffs of mist, less vaporous now, blew with increasing frequency into the corrie. There was always the possibility that a mist would disperse as suddenly as it had come; on the other hand, it was equally possible for it to last hours or even days. I started to run, not as yet from any sense of panic, but because I realised it was important to reach the end of the corrie quickly and get a good
10 view of my bearings. I was about five miles from home, high up in the hills. As I started down the hill, keeping my eyes on the boulder - my immediate destination - and trying at the same time to avoid rocks and loose scree, the mist swept over the brow of the hill and enveloped me, blotting out every landmark and object excepting those within a few feet. On walks with Ben I would often call "Home!" to him when the time came to retrace
15 our steps, so that he would know I was returning. Now I spoke the word to him and trusted he would have the initiative to take upon himself the task of leading us back to the croft. For what seemed ages he continued to sit without making a move. "Home!" I repeatedly urged.

20 At last he got up and with no sign of hurry began to walk forward; I followed, clinging to the lead as a drowning person might cling to a length of driftwood. We continued to walk forwards at a slow pace. As the damp grasses flicked round my ankles I expected at any moment to sink into a swamp.

Now answer these questions.

1. (a) How does Rowena Farr first realise that the weather is changing? **1 mark**
(b) How does she see that it is worsening? **1 mark**
2. How does she react to these changes? **2 marks**
3. (a) What item has she not taken with her which would be useful now? **1 mark**
(b) Why did she not take this? **1 mark**
4. What does she know about mists in that region? **2 marks**
5. Where is she when the weather changes? **2 marks**
6. Apart from the weather, what other difficulties and dangers does she have? **2 marks**
7. (a) Why is Ben's behaviour surprising? **2 marks**
(b) How does Rowena Farr show that this increased her anxiety? **1 mark**

(questions continue overleaf)

8. (a) Why does Rowena Farr compare herself to a drowning person (in line 20)? **1 mark**
- (b) What is the term we use for this sort of comparison? **1 mark**
9. From your reading of the passage, choose what you think is the meaning of each of the following words. (Pick your answer from the choice of four possible meanings given for each word.)
- (a) scree (line 12): plants, small stones, bogs, walls **1 mark**
- (b) intense (line 2): interesting, frightening, very thick or strong, pretty **1 mark**
- (c) corrie (line 6): hill, hollow, hole, peak **1 mark**

Total 20 marks