

Sangam SKM College Nadi – 2021
Year 11 - Geography
Worksheet 2 – Answers

1. Define the following terms :

- i. **Drought:** long period without rainfall
- ii. **Air pressure:** the force exerted on to a surface by the weight of the air
- iii. **Wind:** moving air
- iv. **Maritime Climate:** climate control by sea
- v. **Trade Winds:** winds that blow in tropics

2. Describe the effects of solar radiation on Fiji's climate.

- ✓ Being located in the tropics and closer to the equator, hence Fiji constantly receives solar radiation, as a result during summer the solar radiation is higher while in winter its lower making the temperature moderate throughout the year.

3. Explain how winds influence the climate of Fiji.

- ✓ From May – October, when the overhead sun is north of Fiji, the group comes under the influence of the SE trade winds which blow from the high pressure belts (about 30 degrees latitude South) to the low pressure region. Also during the period, occasional depressions (low pressure) pass over Fiji bringing long steady periods of rain.
- ✓ From November to April, winds are more variable, some easterlies, some westerlies and some northerlies. The northerlies in particular bring heavy rain to the northern and western sides of the larger islands. It is also a period of intense tropical storms.

4. Discuss how orographic rainfalls are formed.

- ✓ Commonly occurs on the windward slopes of mountain ranges. Warm, moist air meets the mountain barrier and tries to find a path around it. If there is none, the air is forced to rise up over the slope. In rising, the air will cool and release some of its moisture as rain.

5. Discuss three climatic elements and explain how it affects the climate of a specific region.

- ✓ Due to the influence of the surrounding ocean, the changes in **temperature** from day to day and season to season are relatively small
- ✓ Generally, the **winds** in Fiji are light to moderate; strong winds are uncommon and are most likely to occur through channels and headlands in the period June to November when the winds are most persistent.
- ✓ **Rainfall** is usually abundant during the wet season especially over the larger islands and is often deficient during the rest of the year particularly in the dry zone in the northwestern sides of the main islands