

Passage II

INSTRUCTIONS:

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. **ALL** questions must be answered in complete sentences and in your own words unless otherwise indicated.

All answers must be based on information in the passage. Special attention should be given to the directions for each question.

MISS BEAUTY BESTIE: ADVICE ABOUT YOUR SKIN

Dear Miss Beauty Bestie,

I have so many problems with my skin, and even my hair, that I'm seriously thinking of covering all the mirrors at home. Look at the photo that I've uploaded! Here I am outside in what people call the world's most beautiful Caribbean country, with a face looking like "Come here let me fix you!" Help!

Yours sincerely,
Miss Scratchy

Dear Miss Scratchy,

I hope that when you've finished reading my answer, you'll be excited about soon being able to change your name. ☺ What you say in your letter, and the photograph that you've uploaded, both suggest to me that you live in a country that's very humid. Have you noticed a change in your skin at the beginning of a new season? Well, it's because of the changing humidity levels.

Besides your hair, humidity can deeply affect your skin's health too. So every time there is a change in the humidity levels in your lovely home country, be prepared to fight its **adverse** effects so that you can show off youthful and glowing skin. By the way, humidity is the quantity of water droplets present in the air. All skin needs a perfect balance of humid and arid, or dry, conditions. Excessive humidity or too little of it can have negative effects on the skin.

Miss Scratchy, several things can occur to our body if we live in a place that has high humidity. Firstly, we may experience excessive sweating. Humidity makes summer **insufferable!** The normal temperature feels extreme when it is highly humid. The combination of high temperature and humidity makes us sweat even more. The worst part for some of us is, although the sweat evaporates because of the excessive heat, some of the moisture stays trapped under our skin, making us feel even more miserable.

Additionally, since excessive sweating commonly occurs because of high humidity, it brings a lot of skin issues along with it. One example of these skin concerns is acne. Sweating clogs our skin pores, resulting in painful bumps emerging on our skin. I can see from the photo that you have facial acne, so you must know that it causes redness, itching and discomfort. You're probably also plagued with rashes on your entire body, because excessive heating and sweating lead to the development of heat rashes. They occur when our sweat ducts are blocked due to excessive perspiration. Small red bumps appear all over our body, making us feel itchy and uncomfortable.

There are also skin concerns when we live in places where the humidity level is extremely low. Low humidity means there's a lack of moisture in the air. That's also going to have a detrimental effect on our skin, causing it to dry out. Any type of skin needs moisture to be soft and supple. Low humidity consumes the natural oils in our skin. Without moisture it becomes dry and flaky and in severely dry conditions, we may also experience cracking skin and bleeding.

To save our skin from humid weather, we have to know our skin. Understanding our skin type will help us determine what kind of **precautions** we need to take when experiencing extreme weather conditions. If we are someone with oily or combination skin, humidity is certainly a factor that would cause our skin to feel worse. We should determine to keep our skin clean at all times to prevent acne

breakouts or other skin rashes. Using moisturizers is a priority, no matter what the level of humidity is. For high humidity conditions, we may select a soothing, lightweight moisturizer that keeps our skin soft and hydrated. If we are living in places with low humidity, it is better to apply a body lotion or body butter to our skin to prevent it from becoming dry and ashy. No matter what the weather condition is, applying sunscreen is necessary. It is the best way to protect our skin from extreme weather conditions, besides shielding it from the sun's ultraviolet rays. I **advocate** that we all try to remember to wear sunscreen whenever we go out in the sun, selecting one that is appropriate for our skin type and provides us with the maximum benefits.

Finally, hydration is **crucial** if we want to have healthy skin. We must keep our body adequately hydrated by drinking sufficient quantities of water, eating a balanced diet, and using products that hydrate our skin from within. If all of the above fails, see a dermatologist.

Our skin can face myriad potential issues in both high and low humidity. Still, if we take precautions, it is fairly easy to protect it, fighting the humidity war! I believe you will win the battle, Miss Scratchy, if you follow my recommendations. Let me know how things turn out, and I'm not talking about your skin!

Yours truly,
Miss Beauty Bestie

Adapted from a blog: <https://www.asarchcenter.com>.

27. The passage is presented as two letters. Who is the **SECOND** letter writer? Shade the box next to the letter that indicates the correct answer.

| | |
|---|---|
| A | an individual seeking advice on improving her skin |
| B | a dermatologist specializing in the effects of perspiration |
| C | someone who gives beauty advice through a blog |
| D | a weather analyst who studies the temperature of countries |

28. Give **ONE** detail from the **first** paragraph (lines 1-7) that indicates the letter writer's low self-esteem.

29. Name **ONE** thing in the first paragraph of the second letter (lines 9 -12) that indicates that the communication is happening on the Internet.

30. Quote the **three-word phrase** from between lines 18-30 which indicates that Miss Beauty Bes believes Miss Scratchy possibly has a physical problem affecting all of her body.

[1]

31. Using your own words as far as possible, explain **humidity** as it is defined in the passage.

[2]

32. Using your own words as far as possible, and specific information from the passage, identify **TWO** ways in which low humidity affects the body.

[3]

33. Using the lines provided, explain the meaning of any **THREE** of the following words as they are used in the passage:

- a. adverse (line 14) _____
- b. insufferable (line 19) _____
- c. precautions (line 37) _____
- d. advocate (line 45) _____
- e. crucial (line 48) _____

[3]

34. Miss Beauty Beastie makes two jokes in her letter, the first at the very beginning and the second at the very end. Select **ONE** of the humorous remarks and explain what could be said to be funny about what she says.
