Read the text and do the following exercises.

Climate of Belarus

On the territory of Belarus, a temperate, transitional from marine to continental type of climate is formed. The main factors influencing the climate are geographic location and relief. The main features of the climate in Belarus are small temperature ranges, sufficient precipitation, and unstable weather. Climatic indicators in different regions of the country are different.

Atmospheric circulation has led to the predominance of Atlantic air in temperate latitudes during the year. It is associated with cloudy weather and rains in summer, snow and thaw in winter. Continental air masses from the east usually bring dry weather in winter and summer. Sometimes, Arctic air masses enter the territory of Belarus, leading to a sharp cooling, and in summer tropical air can penetrate. A characteristic feature of atmospheric circulation is frequent change of cyclones and anticyclones, which leads to instability of the weather, especially in autumn and spring.

The climate of Belarus is characterized by positive average annual air temperatures. They gradually rise from north-east to south-west from +5.5 to +8 °C. January is the coldest month. In January, the average air temperature decreases from the south-west to the north-east from –3 to –6 °C. Due to the influence of atmospheric circulation, temperatures in winter often drop to –20 – –30 °C.

In summer, the temperature distribution depends on the influx of solar radiation. Therefore, the temperatures of the warmest month (July) rise from north to south. The temperature difference is much less than in winter. In the northern regions, the air temperature in July is about + 17.5 °C, in the south it is about +19.5 °C. The absolute maximum air temperatures are +35 – +38 °C.

High air humidity is typical for Belarus throughout the year. In autumn and winter, the relative air humidity over the entire territory of Belarus exceeds 80%. In spring and summer, due to higher temperatures, it drops to 50-60%, and on some days – even up to 30%. High air humidity causes fogs that occur at a relative humidity of 100%. More than 70% of foggy days occur between October and March. Significant cloudiness over the territory of Belarus is also associated with high air humidity. In the cold half of the year (October – March), cloudy weather is observed in 85% of the days, in summer – in 50%. Belarus belongs to the zone of sufficient moisture. The amount of precipitation depends on the relief. Therefore, the central and northern parts of Belarus, where highlands predominate, receive 650–700 mm of precipitation. The most humid place in the republic is the Novogrudok Upland. More than 750 mm of precipitation falls here annually. In the lowlands of the southern regions of the country, the amount of precipitation drops to 550–600 mm. There are significant fluctuations in precipitation from year to year. In dry years, only about 300 mm falls, and in the wettest years – over 1100 mm. The warm half of the year (April – September) accounts for 70% of the annual precipitation. Most of them fall in July. On average, the number of days with precipitation per year is 180–190 on the highlands, and 160–170 on the lowlands. Most often precipitation occurs in winter and autumn, but in summer it is more intense.

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I. Match the questions with the answers.

1.What type of climate is formed on the territory of Belarus?		**a.** small temperature ranges, sufficient precipitation, and unstable weather
2. What are the main features of the climate in Belarus?		**b.** January
3. What kind of weather do continental air masses from the east usually bring in winter and summer?		**c.** high air humidity
4. Which winter month is the coldest one in Belarus?		**d.** the relief
5. Which summer month is the warmest one in Belarus?		**e.** temperate
6. What is significant cloudiness over the territory of Belarus associated with?		**f.** dry weather
7. What does the amount of precipitation depend on?		**g.** in winter and autumn
8. When does most often precipitation occur?		**h.** July

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