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https://www.100test.com/kao_ti2020/530/2021_2022__E9_98_85_E8_AF_BB_E7_90_86_E8_c74_530329.htm Recent research has claimed that an excess of positive ions in the air can have an ill effect on people ' s physical or psychological health. What are positive ions? Well, the air is full of ions, electrically charged particles, and generally there is a rough balance between the positive and the negative charged. But sometimes this balance becomes disturbed and a larger proportion of positive ions are found. This happens naturally before thunderstorm, earthquakes when winds such as the Mistral, Hamsin or Sharav are blowing in certain countries. Or it can be caused by a build-up of static electricity indoors from carpets or clothing made of man-made fibres, or from TV sets, duplicators or computer display screens. When a large number of positive ions are present in the air many people experience unpleasant effects such as headaches, fatigue, irritability, and some particularly sensitive people suffer nausea or even mental disturbance. Animals are also affected, particularly before earthquakes, snakes have been observed to come out of hibernation, rats to flee from their burrows, dogs howl and cats jump about unaccountably. This has led the US Geographical Survey to fund a network of volunteers to watch animals in an effort to foresee such disasters before they hit vulnerable areas such as California. Conversely, when large numbers of negative ions are present, then people have a feeling of well-being. Natural conditions that produce these large amounts are near the sea, close to waterfalls

or fountains, or in any place where water is sprayed, or forms a spray. This probably accounts for the beneficial effect of a holiday by the sea, or in the mountains with tumbling streams or waterfalls. To increase the supply of negative ions indoors, some scientists recommend the use of ionisers: small portable machines, which generate negative ions. They claim that ionisers not only clean and refresh the air but also improve the health of people sensitive to excess positive ions. Of course, there are the detractors, other scientists, who dismiss such claims and are skeptical about negative/positive ion research. Therefore people can only make up their own minds by observing the effects on themselves, or on others, of a negative rich or poor environment. After all it is debatable whether depending on seismic readings to anticipate earthquakes is more effective than watching the cat.

1. What effect does exceeding positive ionization have on some people?
A. They think they are insane.
B. They feel rather bad-tempered and short-fussed.
C. They become violently sick.
D. They are too tired to do anything.

2. In accordance with the passage, static electricity can be caused by ____.
A. using home-made electrical goods.
B. wearing clothes made of natural materials.
C. walking on artificial floor coverings.
D. copying TV programs on a computer.

3. A high negative ion count is likely to be found ____.
A. near a pond with a water pump.
B. close to a slow-flowing river.
C. high in some barren mountains.
D. by a rotating water sprinkler.

4. What kind of machine can generate negative ions indoors?
A. Ionisers.
B. Air-conditioners.
C. Exhaust-fans.
D. Vacuum pumps.

5. Some scientists believe that ____.
A. watching animals to

anticipate earthquakes is more effective than depending on seismography. B. the unusual behavior of animals cannot be trusted. C. neither watching nor using seismographs is reliable. D. earthquake cannot affect any animals

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