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Here is a sample essay response for Section C of the Grade 5 Geography Practice Exam:

Section C: Essay (30 marks)

13. Discuss the importance of weather forecasting and how it can be used to prepare for upcoming conditions. Include examples from your own life.

Weather forecasting is an incredibly important tool that helps us understand, plan for, and respond to changing weather conditions. By closely monitoring atmospheric patterns and using scientific data, meteorologists are able to predict upcoming weather with increasing accuracy. This allows people to make informed decisions and take necessary precautions.

In my own life, I rely on weather forecasts on a regular basis. Before going on a camping trip last month, I checked the forecast and saw that heavy rain was expected. Knowing this, I was able to pack extra waterproof gear and make sure our campsite was set up in a sheltered area. When the storm did arrive, we were prepared and able to stay dry and comfortable throughout. Without that weather forecast, we would have been caught off guard and the camping trip would have been much less enjoyable.

Weather forecasts are also critical for public safety during severe weather events. When a hurricane or tornado is approaching, accurate predictions give people time to secure their homes, stock up on emergency supplies, and even evacuate to safer areas if needed. This can literally save lives. I remember a few years ago when a major hurricane was headed towards our region. The forecasts gave us several days' notice, allowing my family to board up the windows, trim overhanging trees, and make a plan in case we needed to leave. In the end, the storm passed with minimal damage thanks to everyone being well-prepared.

Beyond emergencies, weather forecasts are useful for all sorts of everyday planning. Checking the forecast helps me decide what to wear in the morning, whether to bring an umbrella, or if it's a good day to do yard work. Farmers also rely heavily on weather data to time their planting, irrigation, and harvesting activities for optimal conditions.

In conclusion, weather forecasting is an invaluable tool that allows us to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to changing atmospheric conditions. By using weather data, we can make informed decisions that keep us safe, comfortable, and able to make the most of the opportunities that different weather brings. It's a critical component of modern life that I'm grateful we have access to.