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### Competitive Exams: Insolation

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When the rays of the Sun fall on our earth, they have to pass through the atmosphere. The earth intercepts in only a minute portion of the Sun's energy. This is known as Insolation. The insolation or heat, of the Sun gives heat to the earth by radiation. Factors Affecting Temperature The temperature of a place depends upon the following factors:

1. Latitude: The temperature decreases as we go farther away from the Equator to the Poles.
2. Distance from the Sea: Places near the sea enjoy the moderating influence of the water moisture which keeps the day and night temperature almost the same.
3. Winds: The effect of prevailing winds in determining the temperature of a place depends upon. The nature of region from which the wind blows. A wind coming from the sea lowers the summer and raises the winter temperatures.

On the other hand, a wind coming from the land will lower the winter temperatures and raise the summer temperatures. Condensation and Precipitation: Hot air can retain more water-vapour than cold air. So when the temperature of the atmosphere falls, the saturation point is soon reached. The extra amount of water-vapour which cannot be held by the air any longer is converted into drops of water. The process is known as condensation. Condensation is, therefore, cooling of the water-vapour into water. In such a case, drops of water will fall on nearby objects. This is termed precipitation. Precipitation follows condensation. The precipitation might be in the forms of small drops of water falling to the ground as 'rain'

### Structure of the Earth

Once beneath the sea; many others which are now below the sea were once land masses. These vast

The earth consists of three shells, one inside changes are being brought about by the earth's the other, enclosing a very heavy solid centre which movements. The movements are very slow and show we call the Barysphere or Centrosphere. It is still perceptible results in thousands of years. Their slow and molten. Surrounding this is the solid crust movements very often build great mountains out of rocks on which we

live, called the Lithosphere. The shallow sea beds or convert continental areas The greater part of the surface is filled with water, into seas and it is called the Hydrosphere. This is very thin

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