

Trend Task

School Picnic

Approach: Station

Level: Year 8

Focus: Interpreting an extended weather forecast chart.

Resources: Extended weather forecast chart.

Extended forecast

rain likely	rain possible	rain unlikely
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	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
Auckland	light winds, mostly fine	light winds, fine	moderate S, showers	light SW, becoming fine	variable winds, mostly fine
Wellington	variable winds, fine	fresh N, some cloud	fresh S, showers	moderate S, risk of showers	moderate NW, mostly fine
Nelson	light winds, fine	moderate N, some high	moderate SW, few showers	light SW, some cloud	moderate N, mostly fine
West Coast	light winds, fine	SW change, showers later	fresh SW, shwrs clearing	light S, mostly fine	moderate SW, risk of showers
Fiordland	light winds, fine	SW change, showers later	fresh SW, shwrs clearing	light S, some cloud	moderate SW, risk of showers
Marlborough	coastal NE, fine	coastal NE, some high	moderate SW, few showers	coastal NE, some cloud	coastal NE, mostly fine
Canterbury	coastal NE, fine	coastal NE, cloud	moderate SW, few showers	coastal NE, some cloud	coastal NE, mostly fine
Otago and Southland	coastal NE, fine	SW change, showers later	fresh SW, shwrs clearing	light S, some cloud	moderate S, risk of showers
South Coast	light winds, mostly fine	SW change, showers later	fresh SW, shwrs clearing	light S, some high cloud	moderate S, risk of showers

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Questions/instructions:

A school in Wellington is planning to have a picnic during one of the school days this week. Look at the extended forecast on the chart.

1. Which days would be best for the picnic?

Monday and Thursday

29(44)

Monday, Thursday and Sunday

22(19)

Monday or Thursday (with or without Sunday)

27(17)

other

22(20)

2. Why do you think they are the best days?

fine / rain unlikely / no rain

86(94)

You win a free holiday for a week and can choose any place on the chart. You want to have fine weather.

3. Which would be the **best** place for your holiday?

Nelson or Marlborough or both

71(79)

4. Why do you think this would be the best place for your holiday?

fine / no rain plus additional appropriate detail

27(24)

fine / no rain

36(39)

Commentary:

The 1999 year 8 students were less successful than the 1995 year 8 students in providing the best answers to the first three questions. There was little difference on the fourth question. Many students did not pay attention to details such as “school days”, “days” (plural in Q1), “best place” (singular in Q3).