

Quiz – climate drivers

The correct answers are on the next page.

1. What is a climate driver?
 - Someone who drives a car and is named climate
 - Something that influences the difference between the weather today and tomorrow
 - Atmospheric phenomena that influence weather patterns over the coming weeks and months

2. Which of the following are climate drivers for New Zealand?
 - El Niño
 - La Niña
 - Southern Annular Mode (SAM)
 - All of the above

3. True or false: during El Niño, ocean temperatures off the west coast of South America are warmer than average.
 - True
 - False

4. What is a typical impact of El Niño in New Zealand?
 - More easterly winds than normal
 - Lots of clouds
 - More westerly winds than normal
 - Big ocean waves

5. Which of the following has a shorter life cycle?
 - El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO)
 - Madden Julian Oscillation (MJO)

6. How many tropical cyclones track toward New Zealand per year?
 - 0
 - 1
 - 2
 - 3

7. When the Southern Annular Mode is in its _____ phase, New Zealand typically experiences calmer weather.
 - Upside down
 - Negative
 - Strong
 - Positive

Correct answers

1. Atmospheric phenomena that influence weather patterns over the coming weeks and months
2. All of the above
3. True
4. More westerly winds than normal
5. Madden Julian Oscillation (MJO)
6. 1
7. Positive