According to a recent report by the US Geological Survey, ninety-nine percent of the glaciers in Alaska are either retreating or diminishing. That is, an estimated 100 cubic kilometers of ice is disappearing from Alaskan glaciers every year, and it may be even more in the future. Alaska is slowly but definitely melting. The cause for the melting glaciers is believed to be the global increase in weather temperature, which is believed to human activities. Since the 1960s, the average year-round temperature has increased by almost three degrees Celsius. Additionally, the average winter temperature has increased by over six degrees Celsius. By the year 2100, scientists predict that the average world temperature could go up four to seven degrees Celsius. Another issue related to the global temperature in Alaska is its thawing permafrost, which causes a number of problems for people living in Alaska. For example, roads and utility poles are collapsing as the ground around and under them warms and softens. This may accidentally cause some injuries. Also, the hard permafrost that originally prevented beaches from eroding during storms is now melting. As a result, people who live along Alaska's coasts are being forced to relocate. For villages on small, low islands, one terrible storm could wipe

16. (A) near (C) around
   (B) close (D) coming
17. (A) linking (C) to be linked
    (B) to link (D) linked
18. (A) decreasing (C) dropping
    (B) rising (D) lifting
19. (A) violent (C) forceful
    (B) mighty (D) dramatic
20. (A) up (C) off
     (B) down (D) out

Part 2: Reading Comprehension (40%) 
Directions: Read and choose the best answer for each question.

Systematic weather forecasting by technical methods has been practiced for about a century. The early success depended on the development of the "electric telegraph" and has throughout gone forward with the improvements in rapid communication, the telegraph, the telephone, radio, teleprinter, radio-teleprinter, fax transmission, and television. The possibility of forecasting beyond a few hours ahead in changeable weather arises simply because the weather systems, especially depressions and anticyclones, move slowly across the map, admittingly changing their structure as they do so but broadly carrying their typical weather conditions with them.

If, therefore, we devote sufficient funds and effort to obtaining weather messages from a wide area, we may chart the weather on suitable maps, study how the patterns move and change, and predict by extrapolations. Although there are many complications due to such factors as daily variations, mountains and valleys, land and sea distributions, man-made atmospheric pollution and a host of natural peculiarities in the behavior of the atmosphere itself, the simple facts about the behavior of depressions and anticyclones (outside the tropics) have made forecasting possible. At the same time they have made great improvements in forecasting almost impossible.

21. What is the best title for the passage?
   (A) Patterns of weather forecasting.
   (B) Establishment of weather systems.
   (C) Modification of weather predicting.
   (D) Forecasting the weather.
22. Why does forecasting beyond a few hours ahead in changeable weather become possible?
   (A) It takes more effort to obtain the weather message.
   (B) Sufficient funds are devoted to the charting system.
   (C) The weather systems move slowly across the map.
   (D) Suitable maps are created successfully.
23. In paragraph 1, what does "them" refer to?
   (A) Weather maps.
   (B) Weather systems.
   (C) Depressions.
   (D) Anticyclones.
24. In paragraph 2, what word is "extrapolations" closest in meaning to?
   (A) Inferences.
   (B) Accomplishments.
   (C) Executions.
   (D) Performances.
25. What does "they have made great improvements in forecasting almost impossible" mean, in paragraph 2?
   (A) It is impossible to forecast weather through technical methods.
   (B) It is impossible to make a huge breakthrough in forecasting.
   (C) It is impossible to develop a new weather forecasting system.
   (D) It is impossible to predict the improvements in forecasting.