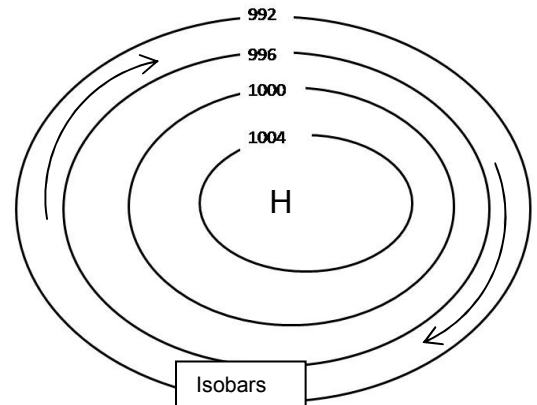

ANTICYCLONES

Anticyclones are areas of high atmospheric pressure. Winds always blow clockwise in an anticyclone. This is what they look like on a weather map. *Think of two ways in which you can tell that the pressure is high.*



High pressure at the surface of the earth results from air that is descending from high in the atmosphere and is stable air. Descending air discourages condensation so there will be little cloud cover and clear skies both in the winter and the summer. The weather that anticyclones bring has some similarities between the seasons.



SUMMER

Anticyclonic conditions in the summer bring clear skies, sunshine, low wind speeds, high temperatures and dry weather. Because anticyclones are stable areas of pressure they can stay over an area for many weeks. Prolonged periods of hot dry weather are sometimes called heat waves.

Weather like this is good news for most people, we can enjoy the outdoors and it often coincides with school holidays. Sometimes though it gets just too hot and day after day can be very unpleasant even dangerous.

WINTER

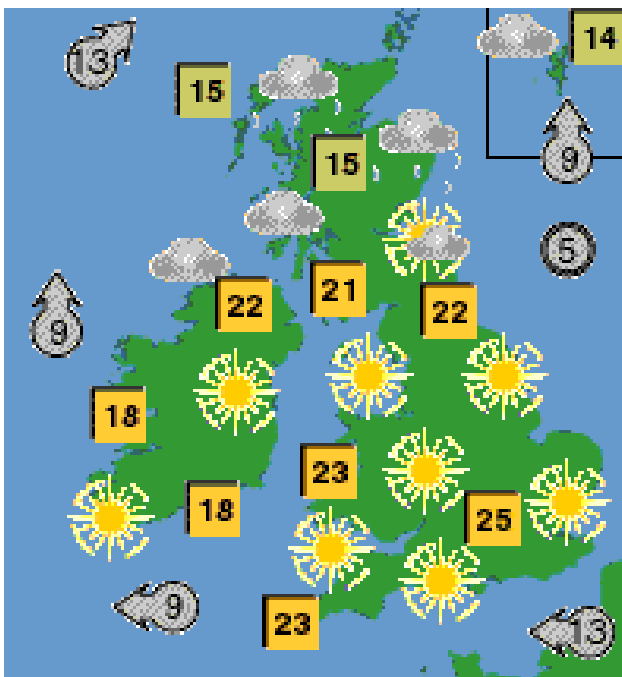
In the winter anticyclones again have stable air so there are clear skies and calm, dry conditions. The lack of cloud now though tends to bring very cold weather. At night the lack of cloud means that any energy from the sun absorbed by the ground during the day is radiated back to space. Temperatures drop so low that frost can occur and even ice on surfaces like roads. During the day it can be sunny with clear blue skies and no rain but again it can feel cold.



ACTIVITIES

1. Outline four ways in which the weather map below shows anticyclonic conditions over the British Isles.
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- 2a) Discuss with a partner or in small groups, some ways in which people could be affected by anticyclonic weather in the summer and the winter.
- b) Summarise these ideas in the table below.

SUMMER	WINTER



22 Temperatures in degrees C
9 → Wind speed in miles per hour

Weather map showing anticyclonic conditions in the summer over the British Isles. This is the type of weather map you might see in a newspaper or on a television weather forecast.