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Q88

Consider the following countries: 1. China 2. France 3. India 4. Israel 5. Pakistan Which among the above are Nuclear Weapons States as recognized by the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, commonly known as Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)? (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1, 3, 4 and 5 only (c) 2, 4 and 5 only (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 Official key: A.

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Explanation**(a) Official key**

• **The NPT recognises five Nuclear-Weapon States:** the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France and China-those that tested before 1 January 1967. Of the listed countries, only China and France are NPT Nuclear-Weapon States. India, Israel and Pakistan are not. Hence 1 and 2 only is the official key.

(b)

This set includes India, Israel and Pakistan, none of which is an NPT-recognised NWS, and it drops France. This option is not the key.

(c)

France is an NPT NWS, but Israel and Pakistan are not; China (an NPT NWS) is omitted. This option is therefore wrong.

(d)

All five would treat India, Israel and Pakistan as NPT Nuclear-Weapon States. They are not parties as NWS (India and Pakistan never joined; Israel is unsafeguarded). This option is not the key.

Summary

Official key is (a) 1 and 2 only. NPT Nuclear-Weapon State is a legal status, not a factual list of every country with bombs. China and France are inside that status; India, Israel and Pakistan are outside it. The 1967 cut-off date is the test. Options that add the three non-NPT possessors fail.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

NPT

Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, 1968; in force 1970

Five NWS

USA, Russia, UK, France, China

India

Nuclear-armed; not an NPT party

NSG

Nuclear Suppliers Group; India-specific waiver 2008, distinct from NPT NWS status

Article IX NPT

Defines NWS by 1 January 1967 test

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