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Q66

# Consider the following statements: 1. The winds which blow between 30 N and 60 S latitudes throughout the year are known as westerlies. 2. The moist air masses that cause winter rains in North-Western region of India are part of westerlies. Which of the statements given above is/are correct? (a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2 Official key: B.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2015 · General Studies · 2 marks · Geography

Physical, Indian and world geography - Prelims GS Paper I.

## Explanation

### (a)

- **Statement 1 is incorrectly worded:** it places westerlies between 30°N and 60°S as if that were one belt blowing throughout the year. Westerlies occupy roughly 30°-60° latitude in each hemisphere, not a single 30°N-60°S corridor. Statement 1 is false, so 1 only is not the key.

### (b) Official key

- **Statement 2 is correct:** winter precipitation in north-western India is largely from western disturbances, which are extra-tropical cyclonic systems steered by the mid-latitude westerlies. Statement 1 is false. Hence 2 only is the official key.

### (c)

Both would require statement 1 to be true. The latitude pairing in 1 is wrong. This option is not the key.

### (d)

Neither would deny statement 2, which correctly links north-west winter rains to westerlies. This option is therefore wrong.

## Summary

Official key is (b) 2 only. Western disturbances riding the westerlies bring winter rain and snow to north-west India. Statement 1 mixes the two hemispheres into one bogus belt. Westerlies exist in both hemispheres between about 30° and 60°, separately. Only statement 2 is therefore correct.

## Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

**Western disturbances**
Extra-tropical storms from the Mediterranean/West Asia, winter rain in NW India

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### Westerlies belt
Mid-latitudes, about 30°-60° in each hemisphere

### Horse latitudes
Subtropical high near 30°; not a continuous 30°N-60°S wind

### Rabi moisture
Western disturbances important for wheat in Punjab-Haryana

### Jet stream
Subtropical westerly jet influences winter weather over North India

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