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Q77

Which one of the following countries of South-West Asia does not open out to the Mediterranean Sea? (a) Syria (b) Jordan (c) Lebanon (d) Israel Official key: B.

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

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

Explanation**(a)**

Syria has a Mediterranean coastline around Latakia and Tartus. It does open out to the Mediterranean. This option is not the key.

(b) Official key

Jordan is landlocked from the Mediterranean; its only sea outlet is Aqaba on the Red Sea. Among the four South-West Asian countries listed, it does not open to the Mediterranean. This option is the official key.

(c)

Lebanon's entire seaboard is Mediterranean (Beirut, Tripoli, Sidon). This option is therefore wrong.

(d)

Israel has a Mediterranean coast (Haifa, Tel Aviv-Jaffa, Ashdod) besides a Red Sea toehold at Eilat. It does open to the Mediterranean. This option is not the key.

Summary

Official key is (b) Jordan. Syria, Lebanon and Israel all front the eastern Mediterranean. Jordan's coastline is on the **Gulf of Aqaba**, not the Mediterranean. West Asia map questions often test this inland position. Only Jordan fits 'does not open out to the Mediterranean Sea'.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Gulf of Aqaba

Jordan, Israel, Egypt and Saudi Arabia share this Red Sea arm

Levant coast

Syria, Lebanon, Israel/Palestine on the Mediterranean

Dead Sea

Jordan-Israel/Palestine; inland rift lake, not an open sea

Port of Aqaba

Jordan's only seaport

Golan / Yarmouk

Jordan's north-west is close to but cut off from the Mediterranean by other States

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