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Q98

Which of the following is geographically closest to Great Nicobar? (a) Sumatra (b) Borneo (c) Java (d) Sri Lanka Official key: A.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2017 · General Studies · 2 marks · Geography

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

Explanation**(a) Official key**

Great Nicobar's southern tip (**Indira Point**) faces Sumatra across a short stretch of the Indian Ocean / Malacca approaches. Sumatra is the nearest of the four landmasses listed. That is why (a) is the official key.

(b)

Borneo (Kalimantan) lies much farther east, beyond Sumatra and the South China Sea approaches. It is not the closest. This option is not the key.

(c)

Java lies south of Sumatra, farther from Great Nicobar than Sumatra itself. This option is therefore wrong.

(d)

Sri Lanka is west of the Nicobar line, across a much greater distance of Bay of Bengal. This option is not the key.

Summary

Official key is (a) Sumatra. Great Nicobar is the southernmost large island of the Andaman and Nicobar chain. **Indira Point** is only on the order of 150 km from Sumatra, far closer than Java, Borneo or Sri Lanka. Six Degree Channel separates Little Andaman from Nicobar, not Nicobar from Sumatra. Only Sumatra is geographically closest.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Indira Point

Southernmost point of India, Great Nicobar

Distance to Sumatra

About 150-180 km to the Indonesian coast

Campbell Bay

Main settlement / INS Baaz area on Great Nicobar

Malacca Strait

Sea lane south-east of this gap, between Sumatra and Malay Peninsula

Ten Degree Channel

Separates Little Andaman from Car Nicobar - not the Sumatra gap

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