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Q28

Consider the following statements: 1. Some species of turtles are herbivores. 2. Some species of fish are herbivores. 3. Some species of marine mammals are herbivores. 4. Some species of snakes are viviparous. Which of the statements given above are correct? (a) 1 and 3 only (b) 2, 3 and 4 only (c) 2 and 4 only (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4 Official key: D.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2019 · General Studies · 2 marks · Environment and Ecology
Environment, ecology, climate, biodiversity - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation**(a)**

(a) 1 and 3 only. Green turtles and dugongs/manatees show that some turtles and some marine mammals are herbivores, but herbivorous fishes and viviparous snakes are also true, so stopping at 1 and 3 is not the key.

(b)

(b) 2, 3 and 4 only. Those three hold, but statement 1 also holds, so dropping turtles is not the key.

(c)

(c) 2 and 4 only. Incomplete relative to all four true claims, so not the key.

(d) Official key

(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4. Some turtles are herbivores (adult **green turtle**). Many fishes graze algae or plants. Sirenians are marine-mammal herbivores. Boas, vipers and sea snakes include viviparous (or ovoviviparous) species. All four statements stand, so this is the official key.

Summary

Official key is (d) all four. Herbivory exists among turtles, fishes and marine mammals; live-bearing occurs in several snake groups. None of the four statements is a zoological falsehood on the UPSC key. Honour the stored letter (d).

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Green turtle

Adults largely seagrass/algae feeders

Dugong

Seagrass specialist marine mammal

Parrotfish / carp

Herbivorous or grazing fishes

Vivipary in snakes

Many vipers, boas

Askable twin

Leatherback diet versus green turtle diet

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