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Q21

Which one of the following groups of plants was domesticated in the 'New World' and introduced into the 'Old World'? (a) Tobacco, cocoa and rubber (b) Tobacco, cotton and rubber (c) Cotton, coffee and sugarcane (d) Rubber, coffee and wheat Official key: A.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2019 · General Studies · 2 marks · History (Ancient, Medieval, Modern)
Ancient, medieval and modern Indian history - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation**(a) Official key**

(a) **Tobacco**, **cocoa** and **rubber**. All three are New World (Americas) domesticates later taken to the Old World: **tobacco** and cacao from the Americas, Hevea **rubber** from the Amazon. That trio is the official key.

(b)

(b) **Tobacco**, cotton and **rubber**. Cotton was independently old in the Old World (*Gossypium arboreum* in India/Africa) as well as in the Americas, so this mixed list is not the 'New World introduced to Old World' key.

(c)

(c) Cotton, **coffee** and sugarcane. **Coffee** is Ethiopian/Old World; sugarcane is South-East Asian/Old World; cotton is not a one-way New World gift. This is not the key.

(d)

(d) **Rubber**, **coffee** and wheat. **Coffee** and wheat are Old World; wheat is a Fertile Crescent crop. This is not the key.

Summary

Official key is (a) **tobacco**, **cocoa** and **rubber**. Columbian Exchange carried these American crops outward. Cotton, **coffee**, sugarcane and wheat have Old World homes, so lists that mix them fail the New-World-only test. Honour the stored letter (a).

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Tobacco

Nicotiana; Americas

Cocoa

Theobroma cacao; Mesoamerica/Amazon

Rubber

Hevea brasiliensis; Amazon

Coffee

Ethiopian highlands

Askable twin

Potato, maize, tomato as other New World staples

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