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Q87

"The crop is subtropical in nature. A hard frost is injurious to it. It requires at least 210 frost-free days and 50 to 100 centimeters of rainfall for its growth. A light well-drained soil capable of retaining moisture is ideally suited for the cultivation of the crop." Which one of the following is that crop? (a) Cotton (b) Jute (c) Sugarcane (d) Tea Official key: A.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2020 · General Studies · 2 marks · Geography

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

Explanation**(a) Official key**

Cotton. Subtropical, frost-tender, ~210 **frost-free days**, 50-100 cm rain, light well-drained soil.

(b)

Jute. Needs much more water and alluvium; humid Bengal.

(c)

Sugarcane. 75-150 cm and more, long season, but the 210-day + 50-100 cm pack is the cotton textbook.

(d)

Tea. Hills, mist, acidic soils, well above 100 cm.

Summary

Official key is (a) cotton. The NCERT-type line - subtropical, no hard frost, about 210 **frost-free days**, 50-100 cm rain, light moisture-retentive soil - is cotton, not jute, cane or tea.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Black cotton soil

Regur; Deccan cotton.

Frost-free days

The American cotton-belt metric used in Indian textbooks.