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Q60

"Leaf litter decomposes faster than in any other biome and as a result the soil surface is often almost bare. Apart from trees, the vegetation is largely composed of plant forms that reach up into the canopy vicariously, by climbing the trees or growing as epiphytes, rooted on the upper branches of trees." This is the most likely description of (a) coniferous forest (b) dry deciduous forest (c) mangrove forest (d) tropical rain forest Official key: D.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2021 · General Studies · 2 marks · Geography

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

Explanation

(a)

Coniferous. Slow litter; thick mor humus, not a bare floor.

(b)

Dry deciduous. Seasonal leaf fall, not the fastest litter on Earth.

(c)

Mangrove. Tidal mud, not a high canopy of climbers.

(d) Official key

Tropical rain forest. Fastest litter decay; climbers and epiphytes in the canopy.

Summary

Official key is (d) tropical rain forest. Litter vanishes fast, the floor looks bare, and life climbs or perches in the canopy - the classic equatorial forest.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Epiphyte

Orchid, fern, bromeliad on branches.

Laterite / oxisol

Nutrients in the biomass, not a thick A-horizon.

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