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Q25

Magnetite particles, suspected to cause neurodegenerative problems, are generated as environmental pollutants from which of the following? 1. Brakes of motor vehicles 2. Engines of motor vehicles 3. Microwave stoves within homes 4. Power plants 5. Telephone lines Select the correct answer using the code given below (a) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only (b) 1, 2 and 4 only (c) 3, 4 and 5 only (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 Official key: B.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2021 · General Studies · 2 marks · Environment and Ecology
Environment, ecology, climate, biodiversity - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation**(a)**

1, 2, 3 and 5 only. Microwave ovens and phone lines are not the keyed magnetite sources.

(b) Official key

1, 2 and 4 only. Brake wear, engines and power plants throw magnetite nanoparticles. Microwaves and telephone lines are out.

(c)

3, 4 and 5 only. Wrong trio.

(d)

All five. 3 and 5 fail.

Summary

Official key is (b) 1, 2 and 4 only. Airborne magnetite linked to brain studies comes from vehicle brakes and engines and from coal-fired plants. Home microwaves and telephone lines are not that source list.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Magnetite NP

Fe₃O₄; combustion and friction.

Maher et al.

Magnetite in human brain tissue - the news hook.

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