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Q62

With reference to the water on the planet Earth, consider the following statements: 1. The amount of water in the rivers and lakes is more than the amount of groundwater. 2. The amount of water in polar ice caps and glaciers is more than the amount of groundwater. Which of the statements given above is/are correct? (a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2 Official key: B.

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

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

Explanation

(a)

1 only. Rivers and lakes hold far less than groundwater.

(b) Official key

2 only. Ice sheets and glaciers exceed groundwater. Liquid surface water does not.

(c)

Both. Statement 1 reverses the volumes.

(d)

Neither. Ice > groundwater is true.

Summary

Official key is (b) 2 only. Most freshwater is locked in ice. Groundwater is next. Rivers and lakes are a thin film by comparison.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Hydrosphere shares

Oceans ~97%; ice ~2%; groundwater a fraction of a percent; rivers tiny.

Fossil aquifers

The large groundwater stock.

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