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Q97

Which one of the following statements best describes the role of B cells and T cells in the human body? (a) They protect the body from environmental allergens. (b) They alleviate the body's pain and inflammation. (c) They act as immunosuppressants in the body. (d) They protect the body from the diseases caused by pathogens. Official key: D.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2022 · General Studies · 2 marks · Science and Technology
Science, technology, space, defence, IT - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation**(a)**

Protect from environmental allergens. A slice of immunity (IgE), not the core B/T job as keyed.

(b)

Alleviate pain and inflammation. That is drugs / other mediators.

(c)

Act as immunosuppressants. Regulatory T cells modulate; they are not 'the' immunosuppressants.

(d) Official key

- **Protect from diseases caused by pathogens. Adaptive immunity:** B cells (antibodies) and T cells (cellular).

Summary

Official key is (d). B lymphocytes and T lymphocytes are the adaptive immune cells that defend against pathogens. Allergen handling, analgesia and immunosuppression are not their defining role in this item.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

B cell

Humoral immunity; plasma cells and antibodies.

T cell

Helper, cytotoxic and regulatory subsets.

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