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Q44

Consider the following: I. Cigarette butts II. Eyeglass lenses III. Car tyres How many of them contain plastic? (a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All the three (d) None Official key: C.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2025 · General Studies · 2 marks · Environment and Ecology

Environment, ecology, climate, biodiversity - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation

(a)

Only one. Cigarette filters, lenses and tyres all contain plastic polymers.

(b)

Only two. The official count is all three.

(c) Official key

All the three. Cigarette butts (**cellulose acetate**), eyeglass lenses (polycarbonate/**CR-39**) and car tyres (synthetic rubber plus polymers) all contain plastic.

(d)

None. Each listed item has a plastic component.

Summary

Official Set A key is (c) all three. A cigarette butt is mostly a cellulose-acetate filter. Spectacle lenses are plastic resins. A car tyre is natural and synthetic rubber with polymer fillers and a plasticised bead. **Microplastics** from all three are in the environment story. None of the three is plastic-free, so 'only one' or 'only two' under-counts.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Cellulose acetate

The plastic in most cigarette filters. Butts are a major litter and microplastic source.

CR-39 (Columbia Resin #39)

A common plastic for spectacle lenses, alongside polycarbonate and Trivex. Mineral glass lenses still exist.

Tyre wear particles

A large share of environmental microplastics. Synthetic rubber abrades onto roads and into water.

Microplastics

Pieces under 5 mm. Sources include textiles, packaging, paints and tyre wear - not only bottles.

Single-Use Plastic ban (India)

Identified single-use items banned from July 2022. Cigarette filters and tyres sit outside that list.

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