

WRAP Exams · wrapexams.com

Prelims PYQ, Mains model answers, and copy evaluation. Write to the desk for this paper, a doubt, or the AI waitlist.

ask@wrapexams.com · +91 85951 84903 · wrapexams.com

Q39

Consider the following pairs: Plant Description I. Cassava : Woody shrub II. Ginger : Herb with pseudostem III. Malabar spinach : Herbaceous climber IV. Mint : Annual shrub V. Papaya : Woody shrub How many of the above pairs are correctly matched? (a) Only two (b) Only three (c) Only four (d) All the five Official key: B.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2025 · General Studies · 2 marks · Science and Technology
Science, technology, space, defence, IT - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation

(a)

Only two. Three pairs hold. That under-counts.

(b) Official key

Only three. I Cassava - woody shrub (tapioca). II Ginger - herb with a pseudostem of leaf sheaths. III Malabar spinach (Basella) - herbaceous climber. IV **Mint** is a perennial herb spreading by rhizomes, not an annual shrub. V Papaya is a large herb with a succulent stem, not a woody shrub.

(c)

Only four. That would need **mint** or papaya to be right. Both fail.

(d)

All five. **Mint** and papaya are the two mismatches.

Summary

Official key is (b) only three pairs. Cassava is a woody shrub, ginger a herb with a pseudostem, Malabar spinach a herbaceous climber. **Mint** is a perennial herb, not an annual shrub; papaya is a giant herb, not a woody shrub. (a) under-counts; (c)(d) keep **mint** or papaya.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Cassava / tapioca (*Manihot esculenta*)

Woody shrub, starchy tuberous roots. A tropical staple.

Ginger pseudostem

Leaf sheaths packed into an apparent stem. Banana has the same trick.

Basella alba (Malabar / poi spinach)

A succulent climber, not a true spinach (Amaranthaceae).

Mentha (mint)

Perennial herbs, not annual shrubs. Runner rhizomes.

Carica papaya

Tree-like but botanically a giant herb: little true wood.

WRAP Exams · Write. Read. Analyse. Practice. · <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/prelims/gs/2025/consider-the-following-pairs-plant-description-i-cassava-woody-shrub-ii-ginger-herb-with-pseudostem-iii-malabar-spinach-herbaceous-climber-iv-mint-annual-shrub-v-papaya-woody-shrub-how-many-of-the-above-pairs-are/> · ask@wrapexams.com · wrapexams.com