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Q27

Consider the following statements: Statement I: In January, in the Northern Hemisphere, the isotherms bend equatorward while crossing the landmasses, and poleward while crossing the oceans. Statement II: In January, the air over the oceans is warmer than that over the landmasses in the Northern Hemisphere. Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements? (a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I (b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct but Statement II does not explain Statement I (c) Statement I is correct but Statement II is not correct (d) Statement I is not correct but Statement II is correct Official key: A.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2025 · General Studies · 2 marks · Geography

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

Explanation**(a) Official key**

Both I and II are correct and II explains I. In January, northern continents are colder than oceans, so isotherms bend equatorward over land and poleward over oceans.

(b)

Both correct but II does not explain I. The temperature contrast is exactly why the isotherms kink.

(c)

I correct, II not. Oceans are milder than land in northern winter.

(d)

I not, II correct. The atlas pattern in I holds.

Summary

Official Set A key is (a). In January the northern landmasses are very cold and the oceans relatively warm (II). Therefore January isotherms dip south over continents and bulge north over oceans (I). II is the physical reason for I. That is both correct, and II explains I.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

January NH isotherms

Standard atlas: equatorward kink over cold continents, poleward kink over warm oceans.

July reversal

Land hotter; isotherms bulge poleward over continents. The pair question.

Specific heat of water

Why oceans lag and stay milder in winter. The physics of II.

Siberian high

Extreme winter cold over land. The continental end of I.

North Atlantic Drift

Keeps winter isotherms far north over the ocean. Option-neighbour of II.

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