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Q42

With reference to Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), consider the following statements: I. All types of UAVs can do vertical landing. II. All types of UAVs can do automated hovering. III. All types of UAVs can use battery only as a source of power supply. How many of the statements given above are correct? (a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All the three (d) None Official key: D.

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Explanation

(a)

Only one. None of the three universal claims holds for every UAV type.

(b)

Only two. Vertical landing, hovering and battery-only each fail for some UAV class.

(c)

All three. Fixed-wing UAVs cannot land vertically or hover, and many long-endurance UAVs are not battery-only.

(d) Official key

None. I fails (fixed-wing recovery). II fails (no hover without rotary/VTOL lift). III fails (fuel and hybrid UAVs exist). No statement is universally true.

Summary

Official Set A key is (d) none. 'All types of UAVs' is the trap. Fixed-wing drones need a strip, catapult or net; they cannot land vertically or hover. Rotary and some VTOL types can. Battery-only is true of small multirotors, not of HALE or many military airframes that burn liquid fuel. So I, II and III are all over-claims. The official count is zero correct statements.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Fixed-wing UAV

Rigid wings, fuselage, propeller. Needs a strip, catapult or net. Cannot hover or land vertically.

Multirotor UAV

Quadcopter and similar. Vertical take-off, hover, battery as the usual sole source.

Hybrid VTOL UAV

Takes off vertically, then flies on wings for range. The bridge between rotary and fixed-wing.

HALE UAV

High-altitude long-endurance military drones often use fuel, not battery-only, because energy density of liquid fuel is higher.

MQ-9 Reaper

A well-known fixed-wing UAV: runway operations, not VTOL, not hover.

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