

You are advised to spend 60 minutes answering the questions in this booklet.

Assessor's
use only

QUESTION ONE: NATURAL ENVIRONMENT OF KERALA, SOUTH INDIA

Refer to **Resource A** on pages 2–7 of the resource booklet when answering this question.

Applying a geographic concept Environments

Environments is a geographic concept. Environments may be natural and/or cultural. They have particular characteristics and features, which can be the result of natural and/or cultural processes. The particular characteristics of an environment may be similar to and/or different from another.

Refer to the definition of environments above, and Resource A, to analyse (describe and explain) THREE aspects of the **natural** environment of the state of Kerala, South India. Choose THREE aspects from:

- soil
- relief
- rainfall
- forest cover
- the monsoon
- temperature.

You should include specific detail in your answer.

Three aspects of the Kerala environment are soil, rainfall and forest cover. Each one of these affects other parts of the whole environment. From the map of rainfall we can see that there is a pattern that the rainfall is very related to the relief. As the relief gets higher eg Nilgiri hills and Cardamom hills the average rainfall gets higher and vice versa. e.g. east of Kochi in the Cardamom hills the rainfall is greater than 5000mm per annum. There is more rainfall in the northern region which could be due to orographic rainfall as figure 4 shows high relief in Karnataka. Soil is also related to relief in the midland regions and highlands in the East there is laterite soil which does not have any humus and does not hold water. On the coastal regions there are sandy soils and are not so fertile. These soils are e.g.

reflection of the different climates the different areas have. The most fertile soils are along the banks of rivers such as the Periyar River. These soils are alluvial and material from the highlands is deposited by the river when it floods. Because the soils are different the forest cover is also different. There is no forest cover on the coast which may be because of the sandy soils or because where there are fertile soils people have cleared the forest for farming. e.g. rice growing along the Periyar River. The dense forest cover e.g. around Idukki is inland and also on higher relief where there is more rainfall. The area of open forest cover tends to border the dense forest cover and is on slightly lower land that has less rainfall. We can see this pattern by looking at the relief rainfall and forest cover for the area around Thrissur and between Nilgiri Hills and Cardamom Hills.