

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.

Soil as a major aspect of the natural environment of the state of Kerala, South India. It is important to the people and the cultivation <sup>and growth</sup> of crops. Three types of soil are found throughout Kerala: alluvial, sandy and laterite soils. Alluvial soils are found along the banks of rivers such as the Periyar river. It is fertile as minerals from rivers and mountains get washed along the banks <sup>during flooding</sup> making the land fertile and healthy. This type of soil allows rapid growth and cultivation of crops such as rice and other crops which locals might plant. In other parts of Kerala such as the coastal areas, sandy soil is found which is not fertile and good for growth of crops. Here beaches are and fishing is popular therefore soil is

not a big issue in terms of fertility. In the highlands and eastern side of Kerala, laterite soil is found as the relief is hilly and rainfall (< 1000). The soil is not very fertile as it's unable to retain much water. These types of soils are found due to variability in the temperature <sup>and</sup> rainfall ~~and~~ (at climate conditions). Kerala's relief ~~is~~ / landscape is varied due to the different elevations ~~and~~. The ~~is~~ coastal area which is 580 km in length is at 0m ~~above~~ above sea level which is vital for beaches. As we go east inland, the elevation starts to increase as we go higher above sea level.

The eastern side consists of mountains and hilly landscapes which could suggest the presence of mountain chains. Such as Cardamom hills, Nilgiri hills. Forest cover in Kerala relates well with the rainfall the area receives. The ~~is~~ coastal side has no forest cover at all as it suggests the presence of beaches and dense population or infrastructure. However as we go east towards the mountains and higher elevations there is more dense forest cover. There are more dense forest cover in the areas of Pathanamthitta, Idukki, Wayanad which are just on the <sup>state</sup> border. This relates to ~~to~~ rainfall as it is also the areas of Kerala which receive most rainfall of even up to ~~500~~ 300 - 1000 cm of rainfall annually.

Two aspects with detail and insight. Range of specifics integrated. Relief is described but not explained. Good links between elevation, rainfall, and forest cover.

E7