

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.

Kerala is a state in southern India known for its natural environment, three significant aspects are its soil, relief and forest cover.

Three aspects described.

~~Along the riverbanks of the~~ Soil is a significant feature as there are many varying types. ~~On~~ Along the riverbanks of the Periyar River, the soil is fertile and alluvial. This is a result of flooding in rice paddy fields as the alluvial soil found here is deposited by the river. Soil found in coastal ~~and~~ coastal areas contrasts river soil as it is much less fertile & is sandy. Moving inland, soil found in the midland and highland regions is unable to retain much

Some explanation.

water as it does not have any humus, this soil is called Latente soil. Latente soil is ideal for the desert regions it is found in because water drains through it quickly. All of the different soil types found in Kerala are well suited to the varied climatic conditions of the state and each soil type allows natural vegetation & crops to grow.

Relief is also a significant aspect of Kerala, as it has a coastline stretching 580 km in length. The majority of the land, particularly nearest the coastline, has very minimal to no elevation and land lies at sea level.

However, the further inland one goes, the steeper the relief becomes and the midlands contains some tall ranges, with an approximate elevation of 1320 meters. Also in Kerala is two er mountains, reaching heights of ≈ 2670 meters, these are the Nilgiri and Cardamon Hills. Kerala contains a variety of different reliefs.

Forest cover in Kerala is non-existent along the western coast, it is only in the midlands & Eastern coast where the forest begins to build up and there is open forest, which then develops into dense cover. //

Too descriptive to score any more than A3. Some specific evidence for two aspects.

A3