

Applied / Vocational Subjects

Village Field Assistant (VFA) - Part II, 20 Marks
Revision Notes, Practice Questions & Answers

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The official syllabus lists Applied / Vocational Subjects (20 marks) without sub-topics, so these topic areas were chosen to match the work of a Village Field Assistant. Attempt the questions without looking at the green answer lines, then check yourself. A combined answer key is on the last page.

1. Revenue Administration & Land Records

Key Notes

- **Revenue hierarchy in Kerala:** Village Officer (village office) - Tahsildar (taluk) - Revenue Divisional Officer, RDO (revenue division) - District Collector (district) - Land Revenue Commissioner - Government.
- **Village Office:** the basic unit of revenue administration. It collects land tax, issues certificates (possession, nativity, income, community) and maintains land records. The Village Field Assistant supports the Village Officer in field work.
- **Key records:** Thandaper register (village-wise land register), Basic Tax Register (BTR), and the village map/sketch.
- **Mutation (Pokkuvaravu):** changing the ownership entry in the revenue records after a sale, gift or inheritance.
- **Kerala Land Reforms Act:** passed 1963, amended 1969 and brought into effect on 1 January 1970; it abolished tenancy and set land ceilings.

Exam-Style Questions

Q1. The village-wise land register maintained in the village office in Kerala is known as:

- (A) Thandaper register
- (B) Muster roll
- (C) Cash book
- (D) Stock register

Answer: (A) Thandaper register. The Thandaper register lists each land parcel with its owner and extent.

Q2. The head of a taluk in revenue administration is the:

- (A) Village Officer
- (B) Revenue Divisional Officer
- (C) Tahsildar
- (D) District Collector

Answer: (C) Tahsildar. The RDO supervises several taluks; the Collector heads the district.

Q3. 'Mutation' (Pokkuvaravu) of land means:

- (A) Measuring a plot
- (B) Changing the ownership entry in revenue records
- (C) Collecting land tax
- (D) Fixing the boundary stones

Answer: (B) Changing the ownership entry in revenue records. It is done after sale, gift, partition or inheritance, so that records show the current owner.

Q4. The Kerala Land Reforms Act, as amended in 1969, came into force on:

- (A) 1 November 1956
- (B) 26 January 1950
- (C) 15 August 1947
- (D) 1 January 1970

Answer: (D) 1 January 1970. It abolished tenancy and fixed ceilings on land holdings.

2. Land Measurement & Surveying

Key Notes

- **Kerala units:** 1 acre = 100 cents; 1 cent is about 40.47 square metres; 1 acre = 4840 square yards = 43,560 square feet.
- **Metric units:** 1 are = 100 square metres; 1 hectare = 100 ares = 10,000 square metres = about 2.47 acres.
- **Chain survey:** Gunter's chain is 66 feet (22 yards) long and has 100 links; 10 square chains = 1 acre. Metric chain: 20 m or 30 m.
- **Instruments:** theodolite (horizontal and vertical angles), prismatic compass (bearings), plane table, levelling staff and dumpy level (heights), measuring tape.
- **Digital resurvey:** Kerala's digital resurvey programme uses modern equipment (ETS and drones); its records are accessed through the Ente Bhoomi portal.

Exam-Style Questions

Q1. In Kerala, one acre of land is equal to how many cents?

- (A) 10
- (B) 50
- (C) 100
- (D) 1000

Answer: (C) 100. 1 cent is one-hundredth of an acre.

Q2. One hectare is equal to:

- (A) 100 square metres
- (B) 1,000 square metres
- (C) 10,000 square metres
- (D) 1,00,000 square metres

Answer: (C) 10,000 square metres. 1 hectare = 100 ares = 10,000 square metres, which is about 2.47 acres.

Q3. Which instrument is used to measure horizontal and vertical angles in surveying?

- (A) Theodolite
- (B) Plane table
- (C) Measuring chain
- (D) Hydrometer

Answer: (A) Theodolite. The theodolite has graduated horizontal and vertical circles with a telescope.

3. Agriculture

Key Notes

- **Kerala's major crops:** coconut, rubber, rice, pepper, cardamom, tea, coffee, cashew, banana and tapioca. Pepper is called the 'king of spices' and cardamom the 'queen of spices'.
- **Regions:** Kuttanad (Alappuzha, Kottayam, Pathanamthitta) is the 'rice bowl of Kerala', with farming below sea level. Pokkali is a saline-tolerant rice grown in Alappuzha, Ernakulam and Thrissur. Idukki and Wayanad are major spice and plantation areas.
- **Institutions:** Kerala Agricultural University (headquarters Vellanikkara, Thrissur); Rubber Board (Kottayam); Spices Board and Coconut Development Board (Kochi); CPCRI (Kasaragod).
- **Karshaka Dinam** (Farmers' Day) is observed in Kerala on Chingam 1, the first day of the Malayalam calendar year.
- **Basics:** laterite soil is common in Kerala; vermicompost is made using earthworms; Kharif crops are sown with the monsoon and Rabi crops in winter.

Exam-Style Questions

Q1. Which region of Kerala is known as the 'Rice Bowl of Kerala'?

- (A) Palakkad Gap
- (B) Kuttanad
- (C) Wayanad
- (D) Kule lands of Thrissur

Answer: (B) Kuttanad. Kuttanad is famous for below-sea-level paddy cultivation. Palakkad is also a major rice area, but Kuttanad holds the title.

Q2. Karshaka Dinam (Farmers' Day) in Kerala is observed on:

- (A) Medam 1
- (B) Karkidakam 1
- (C) Dhanu 1
- (D) Chingam 1

Answer: (D) Chingam 1. Chingam 1 is the first day of the Malayalam new year.

Q3. The headquarters of Kerala Agricultural University is at:

- (A) Vellanikkara, Thrissur
- (B) Kottayam
- (C) Kozhikode
- (D) Kasaragod

Answer: (A) Vellanikkara, Thrissur. KAU was established in 1972 with its main campus at Vellanikkara.

Q4. The Rubber Board of India has its headquarters at:

- (A) Kochi
- (B) Thiruvananthapuram
- (C) Idukki
- (D) Kottayam

Answer: (D) Kottayam. Kerala is India's largest producer of natural rubber, mostly in the Kottayam region.

4. Disaster Management

Key Notes

- **Disaster Management Act, 2005:** created the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA, chaired by the Prime Minister), State Authorities (chaired by the Chief Minister) and District Authorities (chaired by the District Collector).
- **Kerala:** Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) is based in Thiruvananthapuram. Major events: Tsunami (26 December 2004), Cyclone Ockhi (2017), and the great floods of August 2018.
- **Force:** National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is the specialist response force under the Act.
- **Helplines:** 112 (single emergency number), 108 (ambulance), 101 (fire), 100 (police), 1077 (district control room), 1098 (Childline).
- **Weather alerts (IMD):** Green - no action; Yellow - be aware; Orange - be prepared; Red - take action.
- **Earthquake basics:** measured by a seismograph; magnitude is commonly reported on the Richter or moment magnitude scale. Safety rule: drop, cover and hold.

Exam-Style Questions

Q1. The Disaster Management Act was enacted in:

- (A) 2001
- (B) 2005
- (C) 2008
- (D) 2013

Answer: (B) 2005. It followed the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and set up the NDMA.

Q2. At the district level, the District Disaster Management Authority is chaired by the:

- (A) Superintendent of Police
- (B) Tahsildar
- (C) District Collector
- (D) District Judge

Answer: (C) District Collector. The Collector is the ex-officio chairperson of the DDMA.

Q3. The single emergency helpline number in India is:

- (A) 112
- (B) 108
- (C) 1098
- (D) 181

Answer: (A) 112. 108 is the ambulance service and 1098 is Childline.

5. Rural Development & Welfare Schemes

Key Notes

- **MGNREGA (2005):** guarantees up to 100 days of wage employment per year to rural households whose adult members volunteer for unskilled manual work. In Kerala it is implemented through Grama Panchayats.
- **Kudumbashree:** Kerala's women-centred poverty eradication mission launched in 1998.
- **LIFE Mission (Livelihood Inclusion and Financial Empowerment):** Kerala Government scheme for housing for the homeless and landless, launched in 2016.
- **Ration cards in Kerala:** Yellow (AAY - poorest families), Pink (Priority), Blue (Non-priority subsidy), White (Non-priority non-subsidy).
- **Others:** Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (housing), Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY (health insurance, 2018), social security pensions through local bodies.

Exam-Style Questions

Q1. MGNREGA guarantees how many days of wage employment in a year to a rural household?

- (A) 50 days
- (B) 75 days
- (C) 100 days
- (D) 150 days

Answer: (C) 100 days. The Act was passed in 2005 as NREGA and renamed MGNREGA in 2009.

Q2. In Kerala, the yellow ration card is meant for:

- (A) Non-priority subsidy families
- (B) Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families, the poorest group
- (C) All families above the poverty line
- (D) Government employees

Answer: (B) Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families, the poorest group. Pink is Priority, blue is Non-priority subsidy, and white is Non-priority non-subsidy.

Q3. LIFE Mission of the Kerala Government is primarily a:

- (A) Housing scheme
- (B) Crop insurance scheme
- (C) Pension scheme
- (D) Skill training scheme

Answer: (A) Housing scheme. It aims to provide homes to homeless and landless families.

6. e-Governance & Office Basics

Key Notes

- **Aadhaar:** 12-digit unique identity number issued by UIDAI. **PAN:** 10-character alphanumeric code issued by the Income Tax Department. Voter ID is also known as EPIC.
- **Digital India** was launched on 1 July 2015. **Akshaya** is Kerala's network of e-literacy and citizen service centres; Malappuram became India's first fully e-literate district in 2002.
- **e-District:** online delivery of revenue and other certificates (income, nativity, caste/community) through e-services. **FRIENDS** centres allow citizens to pay bills and fees at one counter.
- **Office basics:** a file moves through noting and drafting; use of acknowledgements and registers helps keep records. Email, PDF and scanned copies are widely used in digital offices.

Exam-Style Questions

Q1. An Aadhaar number consists of how many digits?

- (A) 10
- (B) 12
- (C) 14
- (D) 16

Answer: (B) 12. The 12-digit number is issued by UIDAI.

Q2. Digital India campaign was launched in:

- (A) 2010
- (B) 2013
- (C) 2015
- (D) 2018

Answer: (C) 2015. It was launched on 1 July 2015 to deliver government services electronically.

Q3. Which Kerala district became India's first fully e-literate district through the Akshaya project?

- (A) Ernakulam
- (B) Thiruvananthapuram
- (C) Wayanad
- (D) Malappuram

Answer: (D) Malappuram. The Akshaya project began in Malappuram in 2002.

Combined Answer Key

Topic	Answers
1. Revenue Administration & Land Records	Q1-A, Q2-C, Q3-B, Q4-D
2. Land Measurement & Surveying	Q1-C, Q2-C, Q3-A
3. Agriculture	Q1-B, Q2-D, Q3-A, Q4-D
4. Disaster Management	Q1-B, Q2-C, Q3-A
5. Rural Development & Welfare Schemes	Q1-C, Q2-B, Q3-A
6. e-Governance & Office Basics	Q1-B, Q2-C, Q3-D