Tamil Nadu

Advanced MCQ practice

24 original MCQs + explained answers

State GK and state-linked general studies, in one PDF.

Higher level: chronology, statements, evidence checks, data interpretation and policy applications. A bridge towards graduate-level state-service preparation.

These are original practice questions, not previous-year questions or an official mock. This focused first collection does not replace an exam-specific syllabus.

Language: English. Core focus: history, geography, heritage, governance, development, environment and institutions.

This edition emphasises stable concepts. It is not a current-affairs digest; verify changing schemes, office-holders, district boundaries and budget figures separately.

How to use this book

Attempt every item before opening the answers. Record uncertain answers and revise the explanation. One correct option per question; no official marking scheme is implied.

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What the exam research tells us

Foundation exam evidence

TNPSC Group IV code 496 lists SSLC-level GS (75 questions), aptitude and mental ability (25), and Tamil eligibility-cum-scoring (100). Tamil Nadu history, heritage, social movements and development are explicit themes. This English collection supplements state GS; it does not cover the Tamil component or the full paper. [EX1]

Higher exam evidence

The December 2024 Group I preliminary syllabus specifies degree-level GS (175 questions) and SSLC-level aptitude (25). The mains syllabus includes compulsory qualifying Tamil and descriptive GS papers. These documents guide our recall-to-analysis progression; they are dated syllabus evidence, not a guarantee of the next notification. [EX2, EX3]

Practice design

Basic uses direct facts and one-step aptitude. Advanced adds chronology, statements, evidence interpretation and hypothetical data. Mains offers analytical prompts with models and suggested rubrics. Difficulty, time limits, word targets and 10-mark guides are editorial choices. All items are original practice, not previous-year questions or complete mocks.

Tamil Nadu focus

Keeladi, Vellore, Swadeshi shipping, social reform, Thirukkural, Pallava and Chola heritage, Cauvery irrigation, northeast monsoon, coastal ecosystems and school meals anchor this collection. Official and primary sources support facts. Numerical datasets and administrative cases are invented for practice; policy proposals are editorial, not verified programme outcomes.

Dates and limits

Research checked 29 October 2026. This collection tests stable facts and concepts; it excludes changing office-holders, budget totals and wildlife counts. We did not count past-paper topic frequency. Recruitment rules and language requirements must be checked against the applicable notification. Full national GS, current affairs and Tamil preparation remain necessary.

Try first - check answers later

01 / Historical sequence

Choose the correct chronological order.

A. Self-Respect Movement - Vellore uprising - Swadeshi shipping
B. Vellore uprising - Swadeshi shipping - Self-Respect Movement
C. Vellore uprising - Self-Respect Movement - Swadeshi shipping
D. Swadeshi shipping - Self-Respect Movement - Vellore uprising

02 / Swadeshi interpretation

VOC's shipping venture best illustrates which dimension of Swadeshi?

A. A campaign confined to Himalayan agriculture
B. A movement opposing all Indian enterprise
C. A purely medieval temple-building programme
D. Economic self-assertion linked to nationalist mobilisation

03 / Labour and nationalism

Which inference is supported by VOC's role at Coral Mills?

A. All mill workers had identical political views
B. Labour concerns could intersect with nationalist politics
C. The strike occurred in 1806
D. Industrial labour had no role in political mobilisation

Try first - check answers later

04 / Archaeological method

Keeladi yields spindle whorls and beads. What is the soundest inference?

A. Craft activities are plausible and need contextual study
B. Every resident could read
C. The exact population is established
D. The site had modern factory production

05 / Material evidence

Which claim goes beyond the evidence of a ring well alone?

A. Its context can inform settlement study
B. It is a material structure
C. It proves universal literacy among residents
D. Its construction can be examined

06 / Literary structure

If all 133 Thirukkural chapters contain ten couplets, what follows?

A. The total is 1330 couplets
B. Each division necessarily has equal chapters
C. There are only ten couplets overall
D. There are 1330 chapters

Try first - check answers later

07 / Heritage matching

Which pairing is correct?

A. Gupta - Gangaikondacholapuram
B. Lodi - Thanjavur Brihadisvara
C. Pallava - Mahabalipuram
D. Maurya - Airavatesvara at Darasuram

08 / Chola patronage

Which sequence correctly matches Thanjavur, Gangaikondacholapuram and Darasuram?

A. Ashoka; Akbar; Harsha
B. Rajaraja I; Rajendra I; Rajaraja II
C. Rajendra I; Rajaraja II; Rajaraja I
D. Rajaraja II; Rajaraja I; Rajendra I

09 / Architecture

Which description fits Mahabalipuram?

A. Only Buddhist stupas of the Mauryan period
B. Only modern steel towers
C. Rock-cut rathas, cave mandapas and structural temples
D. Only Mughal garden tombs

Try first - check answers later

10 / Living-site management

Which plan best balances living worship and conservation?

A. Consult worshippers; manage visitors; conserve fabric with expert oversight
B. Stop all consultation and maximise footfall
C. Measure success only by retail sales
D. Replace old stone solely for visual uniformity

11 / Seasonal planning

Why should Tamil Nadu water planning consider October-December rainfall?

A. The season eliminates drought risk forever
B. Storage has no relation to seasonality
C. Northeast-monsoon rainfall is important and spatially variable
D. Rainfall is guaranteed identical in all districts

12 / Irrigation reasoning

What is the best assessment of a historic anicut in a modern basin?

A. It makes rainfall monitoring unnecessary
B. Its existence guarantees unlimited water
C. Its benefits depend on maintenance, flows and allocation
D. Its historical age proves present efficiency

Try first - check answers later

13 / Wetland hydrology

Which pair of statements is sound? 1. Marshes can store runoff. 2. Marsh protection guarantees zero flooding.

A. Both 1 and 2
B. 1 only
C. 2 only
D. Neither 1 nor 2

14 / Mangrove systems

Why does a Pichavaram plan need upstream and coastal coordination?

A. Mangroves are completely isolated from water exchange
B. Only parking fees affect ecosystem condition
C. Upstream land use cannot affect estuaries
D. Estuarine flows, sediment and livelihoods cross site boundaries

15 / Marine ecology

Which Gulf of Mannar pairing is ecologically consistent?

A. Coral reef - permanent glacier
B. Dugong - seagrass browsing habitat
C. Dugong - alpine conifer forest
D. Mangrove - arid inland salt-free dune only

Try first - check answers later

16 / Habitat comparison

Which comparison is accurate?

A. Both are inland hot deserts
B. Both are alpine glaciers
C. Pichavaram is a Chola temple complex
D. Pallikaranai is an urban marsh; Pichavaram is a mangrove wetland

17 / Programme evaluation

A school-meal expansion coincides with attendance gains. Which evidence best strengthens causal analysis?

A. Compare baseline trends and similar schools while tracking other changes
B. Ignore enrolment changes
C. Assume timing alone proves causation
D. Use one photograph of a meal

18 / Social reform study

Which method best assesses a social reform movement's effects?

A. Ignore the movement's own writings
B. Assume every resident immediately accepted its ideas
C. Use one slogan as proof of every outcome
D. Compare stated aims, historical context and evidence of change

Try first - check answers later

19 / Percentage change

A hypothetical reading centre rises from 160 to 200 users. What is the increase?

A. 40%
B. 20%
C. 25%
D. 80%

20 / Weighted data

Two hypothetical schools have 100 pupils at 80% attendance and 300 at 60%. Overall attendance?

A. 60%
B. 70%
C. 75%
D. 65%

21 / Successive change

A hypothetical cost rises 20%, then falls 20%. Its final change from the original is what?

A. No change
B. 4% decrease
C. 4% increase
D. 40% decrease

Try first - check answers later

22 / Work rate

Six identical teams finish a hypothetical survey in 12 days. At the same rate, nine need how long?

A. 8 days
B. 10 days
C. 18 days
D. 6 days

23 / Ethics in administration

An officer evaluating suppliers is offered a gift by one bidder. What is the best response?

A. Decline and document it under applicable procedures
B. Hide the contact from the evaluation record
C. Accept if nobody notices
D. Give the bidder extra marks

24 / Syllabus versus evidence

Which statement about this collection is justified?

A. The exact next paper can be predicted
B. Tamil preparation is unnecessary for all TNPSC examinations
C. Every question appeared in the latest examination
D. Syllabus themes guide original questions; PYQ frequency was not measured

Answer key + explanations

01 / Answer B

Vellore uprising - Swadeshi shipping - Self-Respect Movement. The sequence is 1806, 1906, 1925.

Evidence: H2, H3, H4

02 / Answer D

Economic self-assertion linked to nationalist mobilisation. The venture challenged a colonial shipping advantage and gathered local support.

Evidence: H3

03 / Answer B

Labour concerns could intersect with nationalist politics. The documented connection supports overlap, not uniform beliefs among workers.

Evidence: H3

04 / Answer A

Craft activities are plausible and need contextual study. Objects can indicate production or use; context and corroboration remain essential.

Evidence: H1; editorial evidence reasoning

Answer key + explanations

05 / Answer C

It proves universal literacy among residents. Literacy requires separate evidence and cannot be universalised from a well.

Evidence: H1; editorial method

06 / Answer A

The total is 1330 couplets. Multiplication gives 1330; the premise does not imply equal division sizes.

Evidence: C3

07 / Answer C

Pallava – Mahabalipuram. Mahabalipuram is a Pallava monument group; the named Chola temples belong elsewhere.

Evidence: C1, C2

08 / Answer B

Rajaraja I; Rajendra I; Rajaraja II. UNESCO identifies these patrons for the three Chola temples.

Evidence: C1

Answer key + explanations

09 / Answer C

Rock-cut rathas, cave mandapas and structural temples. UNESCO describes varied Pallava architectural forms within the site.

Evidence: C2

10 / Answer A

Consult worshippers; manage visitors; conserve fabric with expert oversight. Living heritage requires attention to fabric, practice and community use.

Evidence: C1; editorial policy application

11 / Answer C

Northeast-monsoon rainfall is important and spatially variable. IMD highlights its importance and district-level variation.

Evidence: G4

12 / Answer C

Its benefits depend on maintenance, flows and allocation. Historical engineering matters, but contemporary performance needs evidence.

Evidence: G2, G3; editorial application

Answer key + explanations

13 / Answer B

1 only. Storage can reduce pressure, but rainfall, drainage and exposure also shape floods.

Evidence: N1; editorial application

14 / Answer D

Estuarine flows, sediment and livelihoods cross site boundaries. The estuarine setting makes connected water and sediment management relevant.

Evidence: N2; editorial application

15 / Answer B

Dugong - seagrass browsing habitat. The state authority links dugongs with seagrass beds.

Evidence: N3

16 / Answer D

Pallikaranai is an urban marsh; Pichavaram is a mangrove wetland. These ecosystems have different settings, though both need connected water management.

Evidence: N1, N2

Answer key + explanations

17 / Answer A

Compare baseline trends and similar schools while tracking other changes. Comparison and trend data reduce, but do not automatically eliminate, alternative explanations.

Evidence: D1 context; editorial evaluation

18 / Answer D

Compare stated aims, historical context and evidence of change. Primary accounts establish claims and aims; wider evidence is needed for effects.

Evidence: H4; editorial method

19 / Answer C

25%. The gain is 40; 40/160 x 100 = 25%.

Evidence: Editorial data; EX2 aptitude

20 / Answer D

65%. Present pupils = 80 + 180 = 260; 260/400 = 65%.

Evidence: Editorial data; EX2 aptitude

Answer key + explanations

21 / Answer B

4% decrease. 1.20 x 0.80 = 0.96 of the starting cost.

Evidence: Editorial arithmetic; EX2 aptitude

22 / Answer A

8 days. Total work is 72 team-days; divide by nine.

Evidence: Editorial arithmetic; EX2 aptitude

23 / Answer A

Decline and document it under applicable procedures. Impartiality and an accountable record protect the integrity of decisions.

Evidence: Editorial ethics case; EX3 theme

24 / Answer D

Syllabus themes guide original questions; PYQ frequency was not measured. Syllabus evidence supports relevance, not claims of past occurrence or future certainty.

Evidence: EX1, EX2, EX3

Source register

Source IDs beside answers map to the links below. Blue source titles are clickable. Research checked 29 October 2026.

EX1 / TNPSC: Group IV syllabus, code 496

tnpsc.gov.in

EX2 / TNPSC: Group I preliminary syllabus, December 2024

www.tnpsc.gov.in

EX3 / TNPSC: Group I mains syllabus, December 2024

tnpsc.gov.in

H1 / State Archaeology: ring wells and finds at Keeladi

www.tnarch.gov.in

H2 / Vellore district: historical account and 1806 uprising

vellore.nic.in

H3 / PIB: V.O. Chidambaram Pillai and Swadeshi shipping

www.pib.gov.in

H4 / Periyar Digital Library: Periyar Speaks, movement origins

www.periyardigitallibrary.in

C1 / UNESCO: Great Living Chola Temples

whc.unesco.org

Source register

Source IDs beside answers map to the links below. Blue source titles are clickable. Research checked 29 October 2026.

C2 / UNESCO: Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram

whc.unesco.org

C3 / Tamil Virtual Academy: structure and themes of Thirukkural

www.tamilvu.org

G1 / Chennai district: capital and Coromandel Coast

chennai.nic.in

G2 / Thanjavur district: Grand Anicut / Kallanai

thanjavur.nic.in

G3 / Thanjavur district: geography and Cauvery irrigation

thanjavur.nic.in

G4 / IMD MAUSAM: Tamil Nadu northeast monsoon season

mausamjournal.imd.gov.in

N1 / State Wetlands Authority: Pallikaranai Marsh

tnswa.tn.gov.in

N2 / State Wetlands Authority: Pichavaram Mangrove

tnswa.tn.gov.in

Source register

Source IDs beside answers map to the links below. Blue source titles are clickable. Research checked 29 October 2026.

N3 / State Wetlands Authority: Gulf of Mannar

tnswa.tn.gov.in

D1 / Tamil Nadu: Governor address 2024, school-meal history

tnbudget.tn.gov.in

Read sources in context

EX1–EX3 are syllabus evidence, not an analysis of past question frequency. Group IV and Group I requirements differ. Follow the current notification for eligibility, language rules, marks and paper structure.

Archaeological objects support contextual interpretations; one find cannot establish universal literacy or precise population size. Heritage pages are used for identified monuments, patrons and architectural associations, not legends.

Wetland sources contain changing species totals and some inconsistent classifications. Only stable habitat and ecosystem functions are used. D1 supports historical school-meal milestones; hypothetical evaluation proposals do not establish causal impacts.