Tamil Nadu

Basic MCQ practice

40 original MCQs + explained answers

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

Foundation level: direct recall, simple concepts and one-step applications. Useful for building the state-GK component of entry-level recruitment 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.

Research and scope - page 2
Start practice - page 3
Answers and explanations - page 13
Source register - page 21

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 / Capital

Which city is the capital of Tamil Nadu?

A. Chennai
B. Tiruchirappalli
C. Madurai
D. Coimbatore

02 / Coastal geography

Chennai lies along which coast?

A. Konkan Coast
B. Coromandel Coast
C. Malabar Coast
D. Saurashtra Coast

03 / Coastal waters

Which water body lies beside Chennai?

A. Arabian Sea
B. Red Sea
C. Bay of Bengal
D. Caspian Sea

04 / Archaeology

Keeladi is associated with the valley of which river?

A. Brahmaputra
B. Vaigai
C. Sutlej
D. Narmada

Try first - check answers later

05 / Archaeological evidence

Which object is documented among Keeladi finds?

A. Electric motor
B. Steam locomotive
C. Terracotta ring well
D. Printing press

06 / Early resistance

The Vellore sepoy uprising occurred in which year?

A. 1942
B. 1757
C. 1857
D. 1806

07 / Swadeshi leader

Who is closely associated with the Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company?

A. V.O. Chidambaram Pillai
B. Lord Curzon
C. Warren Hastings
D. Robert Clive

08 / Swadeshi chronology

In which year was the Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company established?

A. 1806
B. 1947
C. 1906
D. 1857

Try first - check answers later

09 / Labour history

VOC supported the 1908 strike at which workplace?

A. Calcutta jute exchange
B. Jamshedpur steel plant
C. Coral Mills, Tuticorin
D. Bombay naval dockyard

10 / Social reform

Which leader founded the Self-Respect Movement?

A. Rajaraja I
B. E.V. Ramasamy (Periyar)
C. Rajendra I
D. Karikala Chola

11 / Movement chronology

The Self-Respect Movement began in which year?

A. 1956
B. 1806
C. 1906
D. 1925

12 / Literature

Who is traditionally credited with composing Thirukkural?

A. Kalidasa
B. Banabhatta
C. Thiruvalluvar
D. Tulsidas

Try first - check answers later

13 / Literary structure

Thirukkural contains how many couplets?

A. 2330
B. 330
C. 730
D. 1330

14 / Literary divisions

Which set names the three major divisions of Thirukkural?

A. Aram, Porul and Inbam
B. Agam, Nigam and Purana
C. Rig, Yajur and Sama
D. Raga, Tala and Shruti

15 / Pallava heritage

Mahabalipuram monuments are chiefly associated with which dynasty?

A. Maurya
B. Lodi
C. Gupta
D. Pallava

16 / Architecture

Which monument belongs to Mahabalipuram?

A. Gol Gumbaz
B. Konark Sun Temple
C. Shore Temple
D. Sanchi Stupa

Try first - check answers later

17 / Chola heritage

The Brihadisvara temple at Thanjavur is associated with which ruler?

A. Rajaraja I
B. Akbar
C. Harsha
D. Ashoka

18 / Temple towns

Airavatesvara Temple is located at which place?

A. Darasuram
B. Hampi
C. Sarnath
D. Dwarka

19 / Chola capitals

Which ruler is associated with Gangaikondacholapuram temple?

A. Chandragupta II
B. Rajendra I
C. Alauddin Khalji
D. Krishnadevaraya

20 / Irrigation heritage

Kallanai, or Grand Anicut, is built across which river?

A. Mahanadi
B. Yamuna
C. Periyar
D. Cauvery

Try first - check answers later

21 / Historical engineering

Kallanai is traditionally associated with which ruler?

A. Shah Jahan
B. Karikala Chola
C. Balban
D. Samudragupta

22 / Agricultural geography

Which river is central to Thanjavur irrigation?

A. Tapi
B. Sabarmati
C. Cauvery
D. Indus

23 / Monsoon season

Tamil Nadu's northeast monsoon season is generally which period?

A. January-March
B. April-June
C. October-December
D. February-April

24 / Rainfall concepts

Which statement about Tamil Nadu rainfall is correct?

A. Every district receives identical rainfall
B. Rainfall occurs only in January
C. Monsoons have no agricultural relevance
D. The northeast monsoon makes an important contribution

Try first - check answers later

25 / Urban ecology

Pallikaranai is best described as which ecosystem?

A. Alpine glacier
B. Coral island
C. Hot desert
D. Urban marsh

26 / Wetland functions

How can a marsh help a city during heavy rain?

A. Prevent every possible flood
B. Temporarily store and regulate water
C. Generate all rainfall
D. Remove the need for drainage

27 / Mangrove location

Pichavaram lies in which district?

A. Erode
B. Dharmapuri
C. Cuddalore
D. Salem

28 / Estuarine geography

Pichavaram is associated with which estuarine pair?

A. Mahi and Sabarmati
B. Ganga and Yamuna
C. Vellar and Coleroon
D. Narmada and Tapi

Try first - check answers later

29 / Coastal habitat

Which vegetation is especially associated with Pichavaram?

A. Temperate grassland
B. Desert cacti
C. Alpine conifers
D. Mangroves

30 / Marine biodiversity

Which habitat occurs in the Gulf of Mannar?

A. Permanent ice sheets
B. Seagrass meadows
C. Alpine tundra
D. Cold desert dunes

31 / Marine mammals

Which marine mammal is associated with Gulf of Mannar seagrass habitats?

A. Dugong
B. Yak
C. Snow leopard
D. Red panda

32 / Living heritage

Why are the Chola temples described as living heritage?

A. Worship and rituals continue alongside historic architecture
B. They contain no old fabric
C. Their only value is ticket revenue
D. They were constructed last year

Try first - check answers later

33 / School-meal history

Which leader expanded school meals across Tamil Nadu districts in 1962?

A. Warren Hastings
B. K. Kamaraj
C. Rajaraja I
D. Lord Dalhousie

34 / School-meal milestones

The 1982 nutritious-meal expansion is associated with which leader?

A. Lord Ripon
B. C. Rajagopalachari
C. Rajendra I
D. M.G. Ramachandran

35 / Percentage

A hypothetical library has 320 books; 25% concern Tamil Nadu. How many is that?

A. 120
B. 80
C. 60
D. 100

36 / Ratio

A hypothetical grant of Rs 2400 is split 3:2. What is the larger share?

A. Rs 1440
B. Rs 1200
C. Rs 960
D. Rs 1600

Try first - check answers later

37 / Average

A mock survey records 80, 100 and 120 visits. What is the mean?

A. 100
B. 120
C. 90
D. 110

38 / Number series

Complete the pattern: 6, 12, 24, 48, ...

A. 84
B. 54
C. 72
D. 96

39 / Chronology

Which occurred earliest?

A. Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company founding
B. Vellore uprising
C. Self-Respect Movement founding
D. 1982 nutritious-meal expansion

40 / Evidence and claims

What is the best first step before calling a practice item an actual TNPSC PYQ?

A. Verify it against an official past paper
B. Treat a model answer as an official key
C. Assume any online quiz is authentic
D. Use its popularity as proof

Answer key + explanations

01 / Answer A

Chennai. The district profile identifies Chennai as the state capital.

Evidence: G1

02 / Answer B

Coromandel Coast. The Coromandel Coast borders the Bay of Bengal.

Evidence: G1

03 / Answer C

Bay of Bengal. Chennai is on the Bay of Bengal side of peninsular India.

Evidence: G1

04 / Answer B

Vaigai. The Archaeology Department locates the settlement near the Vaigai.

Evidence: H1

05 / Answer C

Terracotta ring well. The department records ring wells and other material remains.

Evidence: H1

Answer key + explanations

06 / Answer D

1806. The district history dates the Vellore uprising to 1806.

Evidence: H2

07 / Answer A

V.O. Chidambaram Pillai. VOC organised the Swadeshi shipping venture.

Evidence: H3

08 / Answer C

1906. PIB dates the company to 1906.

Evidence: H3

09 / Answer C

Coral Mills, Tuticorin. The PIB historical account connects VOC with the Coral Mills workers.

Evidence: H3

10 / Answer B

E.V. Ramasamy (Periyar). Periyar describes starting the movement in his account.

Evidence: H4

Answer key + explanations

11 / Answer D

1925. Periyar dates its founding to 1925.

Evidence: H4

12 / Answer C

Thiruvalluvar. Tamil Virtual Academy identifies Thiruvalluvar as its author.

Evidence: C3

13 / Answer D

1330. There are 133 chapters, each containing ten couplets.

Evidence: C3

14 / Answer A

Aram, Porul and Inbam. These divisions concern virtue, material/social life and love.

Evidence: C3

15 / Answer D

Pallava. UNESCO associates the group with Pallava patronage.

Evidence: C2

Answer key + explanations

16 / Answer C

Shore Temple. UNESCO lists the Shore Temple within the group.

Evidence: C2

17 / Answer A

Rajaraja I. Rajaraja I commissioned the Thanjavur temple.

Evidence: C1

18 / Answer A

Darasuram. Darasuram is one of the three Great Living Chola Temple locations.

Evidence: C1

19 / Answer B

Rajendra I. UNESCO associates the temple with Rajendra I.

Evidence: C1

20 / Answer D

Cauvery. The district account places the anicut across the Cauvery.

Evidence: G2

Answer key + explanations

21 / Answer B

Karikala Chola. The Thanjavur district account attributes it to Karikala Chola.

Evidence: G2

22 / Answer C

Cauvery. The district geography highlights Cauvery irrigation.

Evidence: G3

23 / Answer C

October–December. IMD identifies October–December as the northeast monsoon season.

Evidence: G4

24 / Answer D

The northeast monsoon makes an important contribution. IMD describes a substantial northeast-monsoon contribution with district variation.

Evidence: G4

25 / Answer D

Urban marsh. The state authority identifies the Chennai marsh ecosystem.

Evidence: N1

Answer key + explanations

26 / Answer B

Temporarily store and regulate water. Water storage is one wetland function; it does not eliminate flood risk.

Evidence: N1; concept application

27 / Answer C

Cuddalore. The wetlands authority locates Pichavaram in Cuddalore.

Evidence: N2

28 / Answer C

Vellar and Coleroon. The mangrove lies between the Vellar and Coleroon estuarine systems.

Evidence: N2

29 / Answer D

Mangroves. Pichavaram is a mangrove wetland.

Evidence: N2

30 / Answer B

Seagrass meadows. The authority records seagrass and coral-reef habitats.

Evidence: N3

Answer key + explanations

31 / Answer A

Dugong. The Gulf account connects dugongs with seagrass browsing grounds.

Evidence: N3

32 / Answer A

Worship and rituals continue alongside historic architecture. UNESCO notes the continuity of religious traditions.

Evidence: C1

33 / Answer B

K. Kamaraj. The 2024 official address records the Kamaraj-era expansion.

Evidence: D1

34 / Answer D

M.G. Ramachandran. The official historical account identifies MGR and the 1982 milestone.

Evidence: D1

35 / Answer B

80. One quarter of 320 is 80. These are invented practice data.

Evidence: Editorial arithmetic; EX1 skill

Answer key + explanations

36 / Answer A

Rs 1440. The larger share is 3/5 x 2400 = 1440.

Evidence: Editorial arithmetic; EX1 skill

37 / Answer A

100. The total is 300; divide by three observations.

Evidence: Editorial arithmetic; EX1 skill

38 / Answer D

96. Each term doubles. This is an original reasoning item.

Evidence: Editorial reasoning; EX1 skill

39 / Answer B

Vellore uprising. The respective years are 1806, 1906, 1925 and 1982.

Evidence: H2, H3, H4, D1

40 / Answer A

Verify it against an official past paper. Syllabus alignment alone does not establish previous-year provenance.

Evidence: Editorial source-literacy principle

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.