Punjab

Mains answer-writing practice

8 original descriptive questions + model answers

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

Higher level: eight analytical prompts, each with a roughly 150-word model response and a suggested 10-mark self-assessment guide.

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

Write your response before reading the model. Use the marking guide to check coverage, accuracy and structure. Marks and word targets are practice choices.

Research and scope - page 2
Start practice - page 3
Source register - page 11

What the exam research tells us

Clerical recruitment evidence

PSSSB Clerk 02/2026 uses objective questions. Its syllabus combines Punjab history and culture with GK, reasoning, numerical skills, Punjabi, English and ICT, plus a qualifying Punjabi component. Basic here means foundation difficulty, not a statement about eligibility. This English supplement does not reproduce the official paper or weightage. [EX1]

Civil-services evidence

The PPSC 2025 notification describes graduate-standard objective prelims with GS and CSAT, and descriptive mains with language, essay and GS papers. Punjab history, culture, geography and economy receive special emphasis. We read the commission-authored document through a third-party reproduction; verify applicable notices on PPSC. [EX2, EX3]

Editorial practice design

Basic uses direct recall and one-step skills. Advanced uses chronology, statements, evidence checks, data and policy trade-offs. Mains offers eight analytical prompts and model answers. Difficulty labels, timings and 10-mark rubrics are editorial choices. Questions are original, not PYQs; no frequency analysis or prediction is claimed.

Punjab focus

The collection links rivers and regions with Sikh institutions, freedom-movement memorials, living crafts, wetlands and agricultural sustainability. Official state, district, UNESCO, Ramsar, PAU and BBMB sources anchor facts. All numerical datasets are hypothetical. Historical Punjab and the current Indian state are distinguished; cultural practices are not treated as universal.

Scope and revision

Checked 29 October 2026. Prepare Punjabi, national GS, current affairs and the remaining exam syllabus separately. District counts, office-holders, current production shares and wildlife totals are excluded. Ramsar descriptions may be historical. The 1966 reorganisation date does not mean that Punjab first appeared as a historical region in that year.

Write, compare, improve

01 / Agriculture and water

Suggest a practical approach to water-saving crop diversification in Punjab.

Practice target: about 150 words | Suggested marks: 10 | Try: 10 minutes

Model answer

Punjab's agricultural transition must protect farm livelihoods while addressing resource stress. PAU identifies water depletion, groundwater-quality concerns and the need to diversify the rice-wheat system. A successful policy therefore needs a regional diagnosis rather than a uniform crop prescription.

Begin with local water, soil and market assessments. Test suitable alternatives through demonstrations and extension advice, including realistic information about pests, labour and input costs. Farmers should be able to compare expected margins and risks before changing a substantial share of their land.

Market arrangements are essential. Storage, processing, reliable buyers and transparent prices can make alternatives commercially credible. Transition support should reach small cultivators and account for tenant farmers and agricultural workers where relevant. Water-saving techniques within existing crops can complement gradual diversification.

Evaluate total withdrawals, groundwater trends, net income and uptake over several seasons. A higher adoption count alone does not prove water savings or livelihood security. Publish results and adjust the package when costs or market failures emerge. The aim is a durable transition in which ecological gains are supported by viable economic choices.

Self-assessment

Problem and regional diagnosis: 2; agronomic transition: 3; markets and inclusion: 3; evaluation: 2. Total: 10.

Evidence / basis: E1, E2; editorial policy proposals. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

02 / Groundwater diagnosis

Why should groundwater policy in Punjab consider both quantity and quality?

Practice target: about 150 words | Suggested marks: 10 | Try: 10 minutes

Model answer

Water availability is not the same as usable water. PAU's vision distinguishes depletion in the central region from groundwater-quality problems in the south-west. A policy that measures only extraction can overlook salinity and other constraints on crop and soil management.

Assessment should combine repeated water-level measurements with water-quality sampling and information about irrigation demand. Sampling methods, seasons and locations must be recorded so that comparisons are meaningful. Regional averages should not be treated as proof that every village or well faces the same condition.

Responses should follow the diagnosis. Demand management, suitable crop choices and efficient irrigation may help address overuse. Quality-affected locations need appropriate technical advice and assessment of alternative supplies. Recharge interventions also require checks on local conditions and source-water quality; they are not automatically suitable everywhere.

Public information should explain uncertainty and provide accessible advice to cultivators. Review outcomes through water levels, quality indicators, soil condition and livelihood effects. Sustainable policy must avoid shifting a quantity problem into a quality problem, or imposing costs on households without a workable route to adaptation.

Self-assessment

Quantity-quality distinction: 2; sound assessment: 3; differentiated measures: 3; monitoring and fairness: 2. Total: 10.

Evidence / basis: E1; editorial groundwater-policy analysis. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

03 / Crop residue policy

Design a workable response to crop-residue burning that considers farmer constraints.

Practice target: about 150 words | Suggested marks: 10 | Try: 10 minutes

Model answer

PAU describes paddy straw as a source of organic matter and plant nutrients that can be returned to soil. A residue policy should translate that potential into timely, affordable choices, while recognising that farmers operate within a limited interval between crops.

Start by identifying residue volumes, machinery capacity, field conditions and local labour constraints. Training and demonstrations should explain suitable in-situ or other scientifically assessed options. Shared equipment arrangements need transparent booking, maintenance and affordable access, particularly when many farms need the same machine at once.

Where off-field uses are proposed, verify actual buyers, collection costs, storage and transport capacity. Announced demand does not establish a dependable market. Support should be designed so that smaller farmers and less visible operators are not excluded by complex paperwork or late delivery.

Enforcement should follow applicable rules and be accompanied by credible alternatives and clear information. Evaluate burning incidents alongside timeliness, costs, soil outcomes and user complaints. Independent feedback can reveal why an apparently successful scheme fails in particular villages. The objective is sustained practical adoption, not merely equipment distribution or publicity.

Self-assessment

Environmental rationale: 2; field feasibility: 3; access and viable markets: 3; evaluation: 2. Total: 10.

Evidence / basis: E3; editorial implementation proposals. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

04 / Wetland governance

Propose an integrated conservation approach for Harike wetland.

Practice target: about 150 words | Suggested marks: 10 | Try: 10 minutes

Model answer

Harike is a river-confluence wetland recognised under Ramsar. Its recorded importance for birds and water use connects habitat conservation with wider public interests. The government-submitted information sheet also identifies siltation, invasive vegetation and pollution pressures, showing why management cannot stop at the shoreline.

An integrated plan should investigate catchment erosion, inflow quality and seasonal water conditions. Pollution sources require coordination with relevant agencies and upstream users. Interventions against invasive vegetation should follow ecological assessment and safe disposal plans, with monitoring for unintended effects rather than relying on removal totals alone.

Local resource users should participate in planning. Explain restrictions, hear grievances and consider livelihood effects before changing access. Visitor activities need clear rules to limit disturbance and waste. Restoration goals should be specific enough for communities and technical teams to judge progress together.

Use repeated water-quality measurements, habitat observations, sediment evidence and livelihood indicators. Older Ramsar summaries provide a baseline context, not a current census or proof that every threat persists unchanged. Publish findings and adapt the plan as new evidence emerges, keeping responsibilities and follow-up dates clear.

Self-assessment

Wetland context: 2; catchment and ecological action: 3; participation: 3; dated evidence and monitoring: 2. Total: 10.

Evidence / basis: N1, N4; editorial management proposals. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

05 / Living craft heritage

How can policy support the Thatheras of Jandiala Guru as a living craft tradition?

Practice target: about 150 words | Suggested marks: 10 | Try: 10 minutes

Model answer

UNESCO's inscription of the Thatheras of Jandiala Guru concerns traditional brass and copper utensil-making knowledge. Supporting this heritage means sustaining practitioners and transmission of skills, rather than displaying finished objects while the working craft economy declines.

Policy should begin with consultation on earnings, working conditions, material costs and access to customers. Fair pricing, clear attribution and direct marketing can improve returns. Promotion should distinguish documented craft features from unsupported health claims about metals. Artisans should retain agency over how their knowledge and identity are represented.

Apprenticeships can support continuity while allowing practitioners to innovate. Training arrangements need realistic remuneration and safe working conditions. Shared services, such as product photography, packaging or payment assistance, should be optional and responsive to actual needs. Tourism must not require every workshop to perform on demand.

Evaluate artisan income, participation of learners, continuity of skills and satisfaction with support. Sales volume alone may hide low wages or replacement by unrelated mass-produced goods. A living-heritage approach respects the people who practise the craft and makes cultural continuity compatible with a dignified livelihood.

Self-assessment

Nature of inscription: 2; earnings and agency: 3; skill transmission and conditions: 3; evaluation: 2. Total: 10.

Evidence / basis: C1; editorial livelihood proposals. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

06 / History and public memory

How should Punjab's freedom-movement memorials support accurate public learning?

Practice target: about 150 words | Suggested marks: 10 | Try: 10 minutes

Model answer

Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar records the massacre of 13 April 1919, while Hussainiwala commemorates Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev. These sites connect public memory with the freedom struggle, but meaningful learning requires more than reverence or a list of dates.

Interpretation should distinguish events, participants and sources. For example, Reginald Dyer should not be confused with Michael O'Dwyer, and the 1919 massacre should not be merged with the revolutionaries' execution in 1931. Timelines and maps can clarify relationships without flattening differences between movements and experiences.

Exhibitions should label quotations, explain uncertain or disputed details and avoid presenting changing casualty estimates as uncontested precision. Accessible language, audio support and school materials can help different visitors engage with evidence. Respectful treatment of suffering should guide presentation and visitor behaviour.

Public programmes can connect historical study with civil liberties, accountable authority and ethical citizenship. Invite questions and assess what visitors understand, rather than treating footfall as the only outcome. Accurate memorial education preserves both the dignity of those remembered and the habits of critical historical enquiry.

Self-assessment

Accurate anchors: 2; distinctions and evidence: 3; accessible respectful interpretation: 3; learning outcomes: 2. Total: 10.

Evidence / basis: H1, H2; editorial museum-education proposals. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

07 / Rivers and institutions

Why does regional water infrastructure require coordination beyond state boundaries?

Practice target: about 150 words | Suggested marks: 10 | Try: 10 minutes

Model answer

The BBMB account of the Beas Project describes linked development for irrigation and power involving the Beas, Sutlej and Ravi systems. This regional infrastructure illustrates how administrative boundaries and river processes operate at different scales. No single local decision can be assessed in isolation.

Planning should combine rainfall, inflows, storage, downstream exposure and competing water needs. Responsible institutions need timely data exchange, agreed communication channels and clear procedures for uncertainty. Geographic accuracy also matters: infrastructure serving Punjab should not automatically be described as physically located within the state.

Coordination must include people affected by operational choices. Communicate relevant warnings in understandable forms and provide channels for local observations and complaints. Decisions should record their evidence and assumptions so that accountability survives changes in personnel or unexpected weather conditions.

Evaluation should examine reliability, risk, ecological effects and the distribution of benefits and burdens. Formal agreements alone do not guarantee effective implementation; maintenance, monitoring and public trust remain necessary. A river-basin perspective can improve decisions when it is paired with transparent institutions and careful attention to local consequences.

Self-assessment

Regional anchor: 2; information and coordination: 3; accountability and affected people: 3; balanced evaluation: 2. Total: 10.

Evidence / basis: W1; editorial river-governance analysis. Editorial model answer.

Write, compare, improve

08 / Ethics and service delivery

An influential applicant demands priority in a hypothetical farm-support queue. How would you respond?

Practice target: about 150 words | Suggested marks: 10 | Try: 10 minutes

Model answer

I would apply the published eligibility and priority criteria consistently. Personal influence should not displace applicants with a stronger claim under the rules. I would explain this calmly and ensure that the dispute does not interrupt service for other people waiting.

First, verify the application and identify whether any legitimate urgent need falls within the stated criteria. Decisions should use relevant evidence rather than assumptions about status or connections. Record the reasons for priority or refusal, while protecting personal information from unnecessary public exposure.

Provide a practical grievance route and a clear explanation of any missing documents or next steps. If the rules are ambiguous, seek timely guidance through the appropriate authority and apply the interpretation consistently. I would document improper pressure and refer attempted interference through applicable procedures, without retaliating against the applicant.

Afterward, review whether delays or inaccessible procedures are creating opportunities for influence. Publish understandable queue information and improve assistance where needed. Ethical administration requires both impartial individual decisions and a process that people can use without personal contacts, repeated visits or avoidable confusion.

Self-assessment

Impartiality: 2; verified and reasoned decision: 3; grievance and pressure handling: 3; system improvement: 2. Total: 10.

Evidence / basis: Hypothetical editorial ethics case; EX2 decision-making context. Editorial model answer.

Source register

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

EX1 / PSSSB: Clerk 02/2026 examination plan and syllabus

sssb.punjab.gov.in

EX2 / PPSC 2025 notification: reproduced PDF; pp. 5-6, 13-23

cdn-images.prepp.in

EX3 / Punjab Public Service Commission: official verification portal

ppsc.gov.in

G1 / Punjab government: rivers, regions, language and capital

punjab.gov.in

G2 / Jalandhar district: city in the Doaba region

jalandhar.nic.in

G3 / Jalandhar district: location between Beas and Sutlej

jalandhar.nic.in

H1 / PIB: Jallianwala Bagh date, Dyer and national memorial

www.pib.gov.in

H2 / Ferozepur district: National Martyrs Memorial, Hussainiwala

ferozepur.nic.in

Source register

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

H3 / Amritsar district: Sri Harmandir Sahib and Sikh Gurus

amritsar.nic.in

H4 / Rupnagar district: Khalsa at Sri Keshgarh Sahib

rupnagar.nic.in

C1 / UNESCO: Thatheras of Jandiala Guru; 2014 inscription

ich.unesco.org

C2 / Development Commissioner Handicrafts: Phulkari

handicrafts.nic.in

N1 / Ramsar: Harike Lake, designation and habitat

rsis.ramsar.org

N2 / Ramsar: Kanjli and the Kali Bein

rsis.ramsar.org

N3 / Ramsar: Ropar wetland and Sutlej barrage

rsis.ramsar.org

N4 / Government-submitted Ramsar information sheet: Harike

rsis.ramsar.org

Source register

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

E1 / PAU Vision 2040: agricultural and resource challenges

pau.edu

E2 / PAU: direct-seeded rice and field-management conditions

pau.edu

E3 / PAU: residue management and return of organic matter

new.pau.edu

W1 / BBMB: development history of the Beas Project

bbmb.gov.in

Read sources in context

EX1 is a particular clerk recruitment syllabus, not a rule for all Punjab exams. EX2 is a PPSC-authored notification hosted by a third party; use EX3 to verify current instructions and amendments. Neither practice marks nor question mix here is official.

G1 and district pages include older statistics and some broad historical claims. Only the specific stable facts identified beside answers are used. Ramsar entries are not current wildlife censuses. W1 concerns regional infrastructure, not proof that every dam lies within Punjab.

PAU sources explain resource challenges and techniques; they do not guarantee outcomes on every farm. Numerical cases and policy proposals are editorial. Heritage descriptions are not medical advice about metals or claims that every community follows the same traditions.