Group 2 Mains – Daily Practice: Questions and Model Answers (19 November 2026)

1. Unit II – Tamil Society: Culture and Heritage · 15 marks · 250 words

Question: Explain the concept of "Tinai" in Sangam literature and assess how the five-fold classification of landscapes reflects the society, economy and religion of ancient Tamilakam.

How to write

- Directive verbs "explain" and "assess" – three headings: the concept (mutal, karu, uri porul), the five-tinai table, reflection of society with limits
- draw the flowchart land + time → deity, people, occupation → emotion, and a five-column tinai table
- cite the sources correctly – Tolkappiyam (Porulathikaram), Ainkurunuru (100 poems per tinai), classical-language status (2004)
- end with today's relevance – tinai as the ecological wisdom of the ancient Tamils

Model answer

Introduction

The Tolkappiyam (Porulathikaram) divides Tamil life into **akam** (love, family) and **puram** (war, charity, fame). Akam has seven tinais: the **aintinai** (Kurinji, Mullai, Marutham, Neythal, Palai) plus kaikkilai (one-sided love) and perunthinai (mismatched love). Each tinai is built of **mutal porul** (land, time), **karu porul** (deity, people, occupation, food, trees, animals) and **uri porul** (the human emotion).



A) The five tinais

Tinai	Land	Deity	People – occupation	Uri porul
Kurinji	Hills	Seyon (Murugan)	Kuravar – hunting, honey, millet	Union
Mullai	Forest	Mayon (Thirumal)	Ayar – herding, varagu millet	Patient waiting
Marutham	Farmland	Vendhan (Indra)	Uzhavar – paddy farming	Lovers' quarrel (oodal)

Neythal	Coast	Varunan	Paradavar – fishing, salt	Pining
Palai	Parched land formed when Kurinji and Mullai dry up	Kotravai	Eyinar, Maravar – waylaying	Separation

B) Reflection of society – assessment

Aspect	Reflection
Economy	Hunting → herding → farming → sea trade – stages of economic growth; villages, towns and kingdoms arise in Marutham.
Society	Land and occupation shaped identity; the five tinais were interdependent (honey, salt, paddy exchanged).
Religion	A deity for each landscape – nature worship; Murugan worship as an ancient Tamil tradition.
Limits	Tinai is a poetic convention, not a literal record; poems mix tinais (tinai mayakkam); Palai has no land of its own.

C) Relevance today

- The link between soil, season, plants, animals and people anticipates the modern idea of an ecosystem.
- Excavations such as Keeladi give archaeological support to the urban life described in Sangam poems.
- "Tinai eco-literacy" in school curricula; protection of hill and coastal habitats.

Conclusion

Tinai is not a mere grammatical category but the **ecological and social wisdom of the ancient Tamils**, uniting land, labour and emotion – one reason for the classical-language status granted to Tamil in 2004.

Scoring tips (faculty note): "Explain and assess" – concept, five-tinai table, reflection with limits; without the limits the assessment is incomplete. The tinai table is the heart of the answer – deity, people and uri porul must be error-free. Mentioning that Palai has no land of its own catches the examiner's eye.

About 310 words (including tables, excluding the tip box) · 2 tables + 1 flowchart · time: 12 minutes.

Reference notes

Key facts

- Tolkappiyam – Porulathikaram (Akatthinaiyiyal, Puratthinaiyiyal) defines mutal, karu and uri porul; Silappathikaram (Kadukan Kathai) describes Palai as the land formed when Mullai and Kurinji lose their nature.

- Akam anthologies: Natrinai, Kurunthogai, Ainkurunuru, Kalithogai, Akananuru; puram: Purananuru, Pathitruppathu.
- Ainkurunuru – 100 poems for each tinai: Marutham (Orampokiyar), Neythal (Ammuvanar), Kurinji (Kapilar), Palai (Othalanthaiyar), Mullai (Peyanar).
- Seasons and times: Kurinji – cold and early-dew seasons, midnight; Mullai – rainy season, evening; Marutham and Neythal – all seasons, dawn and late afternoon; Palai – early and late summer and the late-dew season, noon. The Kurinji flower (Strobilanthes kunthiana) blooms once in 12 years.
- Seven puram tinais of the Tolkappiyam: Vetchi (cattle raid), Vanji (invasion), Uzhignai (siege), Thumbai (battle), Vagai (victory), Kanchi (impermanence), Paadaan (praise).
- Answer-boosting terms: ullurai uvamam (implied simile), iraichi, tinai mayakkam, kaikkilai, perunthinai, ecosystem.

2. Unit IV – Science and Technology in Development · 15 marks · 250 words

Question: Tamil Nadu leads India in deceased organ donation (268 donors in 2024). Explain the medical technology and the legal–institutional framework behind organ transplantation in the State, and suggest measures to narrow the gap between the demand for and supply of organs.

How to write

- Directive verbs "explain" and "suggest" – four headings: technology, legal–institutional framework (with evaluation), the gap, measures
- draw the flowchart brain death certified → family consent → TRANSTAN allocation → green corridor → transplant
- data: programme since 2008; donors 178 (2023), 268 (2024), 266 (2025); 23.1% of India's deceased donations (2024); kidney waiting list 8,539
- end with the demand side too – preventing diabetes and hypertension

Model answer

Introduction

Tamil Nadu launched its **deceased organ donation programme** in 2008, transplanting organs of brain-dead persons into patients. In 2024 it had **268 donors** – **23.1%** of India's deceased donations, the highest in the country; 266 in 2025. One deceased donor can save several lives.

Brain death certified → **Family consent** → **Allocation by TRANSTAN registry** → **Green corridor** → **Transplant + lifelong drugs**

A) Medical technology

Element	Details
Brain-death certification	A board of four doctors; tests done twice, six hours apart.
Matching	Blood group, HLA tissue typing, cross-match.
Organ preservation	Cold preservation solution and transplant within the time window; green corridors for fast transport.
Immunosuppressants	Lifelong drugs to prevent rejection of the new organ.

B) Legal–institutional framework: evaluation

Framework	Details	Evaluation

Transplantation of Human Organs Act 1994	Legal recognition of brain death; organ trade a crime; 2011 amendment added tissues	Strong foundation
TRANSTAN (Transplant Authority of Tamil Nadu)	Online registry, priority-based allocation; 2024 – 146 donors from government and 122 from private hospitals	Transparency
State honour (announced 23.09.2023)	State honours at the donor's funeral	178 (2023) → 268 (2024)
CM's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme	Up to ₹22 lakh per transplant	Access for the poor

C) The gap

Waiting list (July 2026): kidney **8,539**, liver 693, heart 86. Few government transplant centres (kidney 12, liver 3, heart 2); weak brain-death identification in districts; myths.

D) Measures

- Brain-death identification teams and transplant units in every government medical college.
- Steady, affordable supply of immunosuppressants.
- Awareness in schools and colleges; donor pledge with the driving licence.
- Cut demand by early treatment of diabetes and hypertension.

Conclusion

Technology, transparent allocation and social honour together explain the Tamil Nadu model; taking it to every district can bring the goal of "no deaths on the waiting list" closer.

Scoring tips (faculty note): "Explain and suggest" – technology, framework with evaluation, the gap and measures. Data: 268 (23.1%) in 2024, 178 in 2023, 266 in 2025; kidney waiting list 8,539. One line separating brain death from coma shows scientific precision.

About 290 words (including tables, excluding the tip box) · 2 tables + 1 flowchart · time: 12 minutes.

Reference notes

Key facts

- Transplantation of Human Organs Act 1994 recognised brain death; the 2011 amendment (Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues) added tissues; Rules 2014.
- Tamil Nadu's deceased donor programme began in 2008 and is now run by TRANSTAN (Transplant Authority of Tamil Nadu).
- 23.09.2023 – State honours announced for brain-dead donors; 326 donors honoured in 2024.
- Deceased donors: 178 (2023); 268 (2024 – highest in India, 23.1% of national deceased donations); 266 (2025, 20.4%); 176 till 30.06.2026.
- 2024 utilisation: 863 major organs and 637 tissues; 146 donors from government and 122 from private hospitals.

- Waiting list (July 2026): kidney 8,539, liver 693, heart 86, pancreas 6, small bowel 8. Government transplant hospitals: kidney 12, liver 3, heart 2. CMCHIS covers up to ₹22 lakh per transplant.
- Answer-boosting terms: brain-stem death, HLA typing, cross-match, immunosuppressant, green corridor, rejection.

3. Unit VI – Geography, Environment, Disaster Management · 15 marks · 250 words

Question: Explain the ecological and economic importance of the Gulf of Mannar and Palk Bay for Tamil Nadu, and evaluate the measures taken to protect them, including India's first Dugong Conservation Reserve.

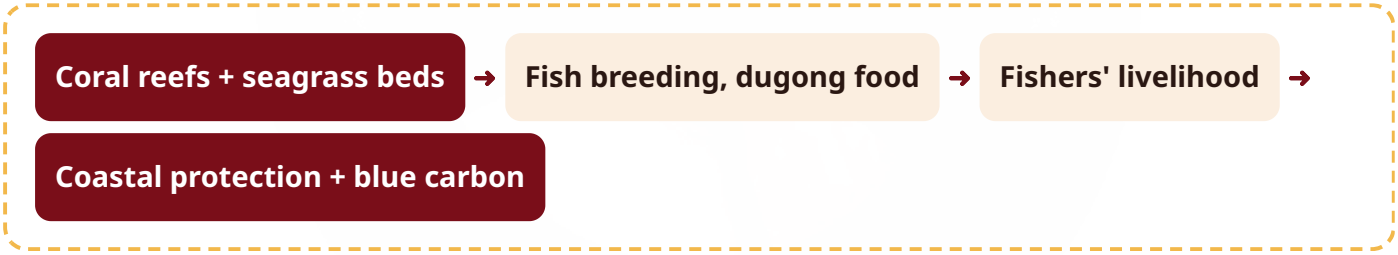
How to write

- Directive verbs "explain" and "evaluate" – three headings: importance, threats–measures (with evaluation), way forward
- draw the flowchart corals + seagrass → fish breeding → fishers' livelihood → coastal protection
- data: National Park 1986 (21 islands); Biosphere Reserve 1989 (10,500 sq km); 117 hard coral species; dugong reserve 448.34 sq km (21.09.2022)
- end with India–Sri Lanka cooperation and fishers' participation

Model answer

Introduction

The **Gulf of Mannar** between Rameswaram and Thoothukudi, and **Palk Bay** to its north, are treasure-houses of Tamil Nadu's marine biodiversity. Twenty-one islands were declared a **Marine National Park** in 1986 and 10,500 sq km a **Biosphere Reserve** in 1989; on 21.09.2022 **India's first Dugong Conservation Reserve** was notified in Palk Bay.



A) Importance

Aspect	Details
Biodiversity	Over 3,600 species; 117 hard coral species; dugong, sea turtles, dolphins.
Economy	Fishing, seaweed farming, eco-tourism – livelihood of coastal fishing villages.
Ecosystem services	Reefs reduce wave energy; seagrass beds store carbon (blue carbon).

B) Threats and measures: evaluation

Threat	Measure	Evaluation
Warming seas – coral bleaching	Coral restoration, artificial reefs	Small scale; climate change continues

Trawling, coral mining	Bans inside the National Park; coral collection banned	Weak patrolling; fishers' boundary issue
Seagrass loss, dugong by-catch	Dugong reserve – 448.34 sq km off Thanjavur and Pudukkottai (G.O. 165); recognised at the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025	Pioneering; only ~240 dugongs in India (2022)
Industrial and urban waste	Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) rules	Weak enforcement

C) Way forward

- Community conservation – dugong guardians, compensation for releasing entangled animals.
- Shift from trawling to deep-sea fishing and seaweed farming.
- Satellite sea-temperature monitoring and bleaching alerts.
- India–Sri Lanka marine cooperation; full environmental impact assessment for big projects.

Conclusion

The Gulf of Mannar and Palk Bay are Tamil Nadu's "rainforests of the sea"; a **people-and-sea partnership** that joins legal protection with fishers' livelihoods is the lasting answer.

Scoring tips (faculty note): "Explain and evaluate" – importance, threat–measure–evaluation (three columns), way forward. Get the years (1986, 1989, 21.09.2022) and numbers (21 islands, 10,500 sq km, 448.34 sq km, 117 coral species) right. A small sketch map (Rameswaram–Thoothukudi; Thanjavur–Pudukkottai coast) earns extra marks.

About 260 words (including tables, excluding the tip box) · 2 tables + 1 flowchart · time: 12 minutes.

Reference notes

Key facts

- Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park – 1986; 21 islands between Thoothukudi and Dhanushkodi.
- Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve – 1989; 10,500 sq km of sea plus the 21 islands and adjoining coast; over 3,600 species, 117 hard coral species.
- Dugong Conservation Reserve – G.O.(Ms) No. 165, Environment, Climate Change and Forest Department, 21.09.2022 (announced in the Assembly on 03.09.2021); 448.34 sq km off Thanjavur and Pudukkottai; about 12,250 ha of seagrass in the two districts.
- About 240 dugongs in India (2022 estimate), mostly in Palk Bay; Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972.
- Recognised by IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025 (Abu Dhabi, October 2025) – Resolution 25.
- Answer-boosting terms: coral bleaching, seagrass meadow, blue carbon, biosphere reserve, community conservation, transboundary conservation.