



SHANMUGAM IAS ACADEMY

Archaeological Discoveries

Previous Year Questions (2020 – 2026)

TNPSC Group 1, 2, 4 and other exams · with answers and explanations

55 questions

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The exam name and year are given in [] at the start of every question. Attempt the questions first without looking at the answers, then check with the answer section at the end.

Questions

1. **VAS-AHGS-2020** During the Sangam age, in which place were Roman coins found?
(A) Adichanallur (B) Arikkamedu
(C) Korkai (D) Puhar
2. **ARGS-2020** Which among the following is not correctly matched?
(A) Tree-ring counting - A.E. Douglass (B) Varve dating - Baron Gerard de Geer
(C) Glacial varve sequence - W.F. Libby (D) Carbon 14 method - W.F. Libby
3. **AHGS-2021** _____ established the fact, after a careful study of Roman coins, that commercial contacts between Rome and South India commenced during the reign of Emperor Augustus.
(A) Father Heras (B) Mr. R. Sewell
(C) D.D. Kosambi (D) Dr. U.V. Swaminatha Iyer
4. **AHGS-2021** Which metal was used by the Romans to mint the coins that were brought to India (Tamil Nadu)?
(A) Copper (B) Gold
(C) Lead (D) Silver
5. **AGGS-2021** History of local self-government in Tamil Nadu is evident from _____ inscription in _____ District.
(A) Uthiramerur, Kanchipuram (B) Keeladi, Madurai
(C) Adichanallur, Thoothukudi (D) Sittanavasal, Pudukkottai
6. **ADGS-2021** The discovery of Augustan coins helps to confirm further the trade contacts with Rome at
(A) Arikkamedu (B) Coimbatore
(C) Karur (D) Adichanallur
7. **PSHY-2022** The discovery of Roman coins at Arikkamedu helps to confirm India's trade contacts with Rome issued during _____ period.
(A) Copernicus (B) Julius
(C) Augustus (D) Justinian



8. **PSHY-2022** _____ war marks a turning point in the career of Karikala.
(A) Venni (B) Magadha
(C) Avanti (D) Vajra
9. **TNPSC-2022** Which one of the following works is not related to Bharathidasan?
(A) Pandian Parisu (B) Azhagin Sirippu
(C) Malarum Malaiyum (D) Irunda Veedu
10. **G2-2022** In which excavation site did Sir Mortimer Wheeler use the scientific and soil layer (stratigraphic) method?
(A) Pallavaram (B) Attirampakkam
(C) Arikamedu (D) Kaayal
11. **DPGS-2022** (i) This place is situated on the bank of the Thamiraparani river.
(ii) There is an urn burial site spread over 114 acres of land.
Which archaeological site is described in the above statements?
(A) Adichanallur (B) Arikamedu
(C) Keelavalavu (D) Kalugumalai
12. **G1-2021** This place is located 12 km south-east of Madurai. It proves the fact that an urban civilization existed in Tamil Nadu in the Sangam era on the banks of the river Vaigai. A researcher and retired civil servant Thiru R. Balakrishnan points to the similarities between this civilization and the Indus valley civilization.
Which of the following places is described in the paragraph above?
(A) Azhagankulam (B) Porunthal
(C) Keeladi (D) Kodumanal
13. **G1-2022** Match correctly the excavated information with the excavation sites :
(a) Thanjavur excavation – 1. Roman Pottery
(b) Kilaiyur excavation – 2. Centre of Buddhism
(c) Tirukkampuliyur excavation – 3. Commercial contact between Rome and Tamilagam
(d) Uraiyur excavation – 4. Culture of Kaveri
(A) 1 2 4 3 (B) 3 4 2 1
(C) 4 3 1 2 (D) 2 3 1 4



14. **G1-2022** Which among the following inscriptions mention the ancient word 'Madura'?
- (a) Inscription at Siddharmalai
(b) Inscription at Alagarmalai
(c) Inscription at Mamandur
(d) Inscription at Bhattiprolu
- (A) (a) and (b) only (B) (a) and (c) only
(C) (b) and (d) only (D) (c) and (d) only
-
15. **GEOLOGY-2023** Which archaeological excavation illustrates the extent and richness of the maritime trade between Tamil Nadu and Rome?
- (A) Keezhadi (B) Arikamedu
(C) Mauriyakudi (D) Sengalpattu
-
16. **CES-2023, CESGS-2023** Choose the correct statement:
- (i) Hero stones of the Sangam Age can be found at Porpanaikottai in Pudukkottai district.
(ii) Arikamedu is a Sangam Age port.
(iii) The Indian Treasure Trove Act was passed in 1878.
(iv) Roman coins are concentrated in the Tirunelveli regions.
- (A) (i), (ii) and (iv) are correct (B) (i), (ii) and (iii) are correct
(C) (ii), (iii) are correct (D) (ii) and (iv) are correct
-
17. **LIBRARY-2023** Who among the following excavated Arikamedu?
- (A) K. Rajan (B) Mortimer Wheeler
(C) S.R. Rao (D) Alexander Rea
-
18. **DEO-2023** Match Column I (archaeological sites) with their districts in Column II.
- (a) Kodumanal – 1. Thoothukudi
(b) Porunthal – 2. Villupuram
(c) Tiruvakkarai – 3. Erode
(d) Adichanallur – 4. Dindigul
- (A) 1 3 2 4 (B) 3 4 2 1
(C) 3 4 1 2 (D) 1 2 4 3
-
19. **DEO-2023** Read the passage carefully and choose the correct option from below:
- This town is located on the left bank of Nambi river in Tirunelveli district. An excavation was carried out to search for the roots of the Iron Age culture along the Nambi river banks. It is a fertile archaeological site and is known for its antiques.
- Name the archaeological site.
- (A) Thulukkarpatti (B) Keezhadi
(C) Vembakottai (D) Perambalur



20. **DEO-2023** Who was the archaeologist who first excavated the Pandyas' pearl market?
(A) Nagasamy (B) Caldwell
(C) K.V. Raman (D) S. Parnavitana
21. **HEALTH-OFFICER-2023** The word 'Parivadini' in Kudimyanmalai inscription denotes
(A) A teacher (B) A raga
(C) Veena (D) Mridangam
22. **HEALTH-OFFICER-2023** Where were the oldest Microlithic relics found in Tamil Nadu?
(A) Chengalpattu (B) Thanjavur
(C) Tiruvannamalai (D) Thoothukudi
23. **BURSAR-2023** Kudimyanmalai inscription describes about
(A) Music (B) Drama
(C) Local Self Government (D) Dance
24. **BURSAR-2023** Choose the right matches from the following:
(1) Perumpalai - Dharmapuri District
(2) Mayiladumparai - Thoothukudi District
(3) Sivakalai - Krishnagiri District
(4) Thulukkaripatti - Tirunelveli District
(A) 1 and 4 are correct (B) 2 and 3 are correct
(C) 1 and 2 are correct (D) 3 and 4 are correct
25. **BURSAR-2023** The archaeological site of Ovamalai is located at
(A) Madurai (B) Tirunelveli
(C) Sivaganga (D) Tanjore
26. **BURSAR-2023** The stone tools found at Athirampakkam belong to
(A) Paleolithic Age (B) Neolithic Age
(C) Mesolithic Age (D) Megalithic Age
27. **BURSAR-2023** Match the following archaeological sites:
(a) Adichanallur - 1. Sivagangai
(b) Mankulam - 2. Thoothukudi
(c) Kodumanal - 3. Madurai
(d) Keeladi - 4. Erode
(A) 2 3 4 1 (B) 3 4 2 1
(C) 4 3 1 2 (D) 2 3 1 4



28. **CSSE-SI-FISHERIES-2023** Which of the following statements are true about Keezhadi?
- (i) Evidence for brick buildings
 - (ii) Tamil-Brahmi inscriptions on pottery
 - (iii) Copper rods used for decorating eyelashes
 - (iv) Keezhadi has been mentioned in Pathitirupattu
- (A) (i), (ii) and (iv) only (B) (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) are true
(C) (i), (ii) and (iii) only (D) (ii) and (iv) only
-
29. **ACF-2023, ADGS-2021** The first Old Stone Age tool was discovered at Pallavaram in Tamil Nadu by
- (A) Robert Bruce Foote (B) Alexander Fleming
(C) Joseph Prestwich (D) Henry Geoghegan
-
30. **ACF-2023** Where are a large number of polished stone celts found in Tamil Nadu?
- (A) Paiyampalli (B) Pudukkottai
(C) Tirunelveli (D) Tiruvannamalai
-
31. **RA-ANIMAL-HUSBANDRY-2023, FISHERIES-INSPECTOR-2023** Archaeology through literary evidence confirms the presence of a 'Roman Factory' in the neighbourhood of Pondicherry during the first century A.D. Where was it located?
- (A) Arikamedu (B) Poombuhar
(C) Mahabalipuram (D) Kodumanal
-
32. **MASS-INTERVIEWER-2023** Where was the Brahmi inscription mentioning musical svaras belonging to the 2nd century A.D. discovered?
- (A) Arachalur (B) Arikamedu
(C) Adichanallur (D) Vangiri
-
33. **COMBINED-ACCOUNTS-2024** The urn burial site of Adichanallur was discovered by
- (A) Bruce Foote (B) Jagor
(C) Sagar (D) Cunningham
-
34. **GROUP-1-2024** Which one of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Arikamedu excavation?
- (1) Arikamedu is found at Tanjavur
 - (2) It was a port under the Cholas
 - (3) It had trade relations with Rome
 - (4) The Arikamedu port had close trading contact with Kaveripattinam, Alagankulam and Musiri
- (A) (1), (2) are correct; (3), (4) are incorrect (B) (1), (2), (3) are correct; (4) is incorrect
(C) (2), (3), (4) are correct; (1) is incorrect (D) (1), (3), (4) are correct; (2) is incorrect



35. **CTS-ITI-2024** Potsherds inscribed with _____ script have been unearthed in Keeladi.
(A) Tamil – Aayudha script (B) Tamil – Mei script
(C) Tamil – Uyir mei script (D) Tamil – Brahmi script
36. **Group 1B&C-2024** The archaeological excavation site Keeladi is located in _____ district.
(A) Tirunelveli (B) Pudukkottai
(C) Sivagangai (D) Madurai
37. **Group 1B&C-2024** Assertion [A] : There are references in the Sangam Literature to those who made tools in Iron.
Reason [R] : Excavations have revealed iron smelting furnaces at Kodumanal and Guttur.
(A) [A] is True but [R] is False (B) Both [A] and [R] are True; and [R] is the correct explanation of [A]
(C) [A] is False, [R] is True (D) Both [A] and [R] are True, but [R] is not the correct explanation of [A]
38. **Special Competitive Exam-2025** Adichanallur excavation related samples are now housed in _____ Museum.
(A) London (B) Berlin
(C) Tirunelveli (D) Madurai
39. **Group 1&1A-2025** Match correctly the excavated materials with their corresponding excavation place :
(a) Shell Bangles – 1. Azhagankulam
(b) Ring Well – 2. Thulukkaripatti
(c) Roman Coins – 3. Keezhadi
(d) Silver Stamps – 4. Vembakottai
(A) 2 1 3 4 (B) 4 3 1 2
(C) 3 2 1 4 (D) 1 4 2 3
40. **Group 1&1A-2025** Choose the right answer among type :
(i) The Ashoka's Inscription was found at Brahmagiri.
(ii) Chinnamanur Seppedu mentioned Thalaiyalanganathu Pandian Nedunchezhien.
(iii) Thirukkivilur Inscription mentions the death of Avvayar, which was published by T.A. Gopinathanayar.
(iv) Ancient inscriptions not available in Karnataka till AD 10.
(A) (i) and (iii) only right (B) (ii) and (iv) only right
(C) (i) and (ii) only right (D) (iii) and (iv) only right



41. Group 1&1A-2025 Match the following :

Excavated sites in Tamil Nadu

- (a) Chennai – 1. Mallapadi
- (b) Tanjore – 2. Kambar Medu
- (c) Dharmapuri – 3. Kodumanal
- (d) Erode – 4. Pallavaram

(A) 4 2 1 3

(B) 2 1 3 4

(C) 3 1 2 4

(D) 4 1 2 3

42. Group 4-2025 Match correctly the excavated places with their corresponding districts.

- (a) Azhagankulam – 1. Sivagangai
- (b) Vasavasamudram – 2. Erode
- (c) Kodumanal – 3. Kanchipuram
- (d) Keezhadi – 4. Ramanathapuram

(A) 1 4 3 2

(B) 4 2 3 1

(C) 3 1 2 4

(D) 4 3 2 1

43. CTS (IV Post)-2025 Choose among the following the correct statement about Kodumanal

- (1) There is a reference to Kodumanal in Pathitru Pathu of Sangam literature
- (2) Kodumanal is near Trichy
- (3) Evidence of Paleolithic burial urn, iron beads and conch carvings have been found in Kodumanal

(A) (1) only

(B) (1) and (3) only

(C) (1) and (2) only

(D) (2) and (3) only

44. CTS (IV Post)-2025 Who created the worldwide awareness that Tamil Nadu has the most ancient habitation?

(A) Kasal

(B) Robert Bruce Foote

(C) Brix

(D) Sir Mortimer Wheeler

45. CTS (Non IV Post)-2025 Match correctly the excavation sites and archaeologists

- (a) Boombuhar Excavation – 1. H. Subbarayalu
- (b) Vellalur Excavation – 2. Nadana Kasinathan
- (c) Kodumanal Excavation – 3. R. Nagasamy
- (d) Karur Excavation – 4. Poongundran

(A) 2 4 1 3

(B) 4 2 3 1

(C) 3 4 1 2

(D) 1 2 3 4



46. Group 2&2A-2025 Choose the right matches among type :

- (1) Kaveripakkam Inscription - Varaguna
- (2) Thirumukkudal Inscription - Virarajendra
- (3) Tiruvalangadu Plates - Rajendra I
- (4) Uthiramerur Inscription - Parantaka I

- (A) (1) and (2) are correct
- (B) (3) and (4) are correct
- (C) (2), (3) and (4) are correct
- (D) (1), (2) and (3) are correct

47. CTS-ITI-LEVEL-II-2025 In Tamil Nadu, archaeological evidence of Sangam people's tradition has been found in several places. Which one among the following is false?

- (1) Vasavasamudram
- (2) Pattanam
- (3) Kaveri Poompattinam
- (4) Kodumanal

- (A) (1) only
- (B) (2) only
- (C) (1), (3) and (4) only
- (D) (1), (2) and (4) only

48. APP-GR-II-2026 Read the following assertion and reason and select the correct answer from the code given below.

Assertion [A]: The Tamils attained literacy or learnt the art of writing in the 6th century BCE.
Reason [R]: The scientific dates obtained from the objects found in Kodumanal and Porunthal show the date of Tamil Brahmi as 6th century BCE.

- (A) [A] is true but [R] is false
- (B) [A] is false but [R] is true
- (C) Both [A] and [R] are true and [R] is the correct explanation of [A]
- (D) Both [A] and [R] are true but [R] is not the correct explanation of [A]

49. APP-GR-II-2026 Choose the right matches among the following.

- (1) Robert Bruce Foote - Adichanallur Archaeologist
- (2) Alexander Cunningham - Pallavaram Archaeologist
- (3) Andreas Fedor Jagor - British Army Engineer
- (4) Stuart - Collector

- (A) (4) only
- (B) (3) only
- (C) (1), (3) only
- (D) (3), (4) only

50. APP-GR-II-2026 Name the king whose inscriptions found at Arnattarmalai near Pugalur record a dedication to Jain ascetics.

- (A) Ilam Kadungo
- (B) Nedunchelian I
- (C) Rajendra I
- (D) Nedunchelian II



51. **CTS-IV-POST-2026, TNPSC-2022** Assertion [A]: India had maritime trade with the Roman Empire during the early centuries of the Christian Era.
Reason [R]: A large number of Roman coins have been found from the excavations at Arikamedu.
- (A) Both [A] and [R] are true and [R] is the correct explanation of [A]
(B) Both [A] and [R] are true, but [R] is not the correct explanation of [A]
(C) [A] is true, but [R] is false
(D) [A] is false, but [R] is true
-
52. **CTS-IV-POST-2026** Match correctly the excavation sites with their importance.
- (a) Anamalai – 1. Mode of construction of the irrigation system
(b) Tiruttangal – 2. Burial type & burial antiquities
(c) Kannanur – 3. Existence of Megalithic culture at Madurai
(d) Kovalanpottal – 4. Antiquities of Megalithic & Microlithic periods
- (A) 3 4 1 2
(B) 2 4 1 3
(C) 4 2 1 3
(D) 1 4 3 2
-
53. **GROUP-2A-MAINS-2025** Consider the following and find out the correct statement/statements.
- (a) Evidence of a planned town, warehouse and ring wells are found in Arikamedu
(b) The Cheras ruled over the Kaveri delta and their capital was Uraiyur
(c) The Chola emblem was the tiger and they issued square copper coins with images of a tiger
(d) The Sangam Age has its roots in the Bronze Age
- (A) (a) is correct
(B) (b) is correct
(C) (a) and (c) are correct
(D) (a), (c) and (d) are correct
-
54. **GROUP-2A-MAINS-RE-2026** People living in the 6th century BC were literate, because:
- (1) The pot found at Keezhadi has Tamizhi script engraved on it.
(2) Most of the pots found at Keezhadi were inscribed with letters after the pot had dried.
(3) The black and red coloured pots found in Keezhadi have the image of God engraved on them.
(4) The letters written on the pots were in the same script.
- (A) (1) only correct
(B) (2) only correct
(C) (3) and (4) are correct
(D) (1) and (2) are correct
-
55. **GROUP-2A-MAINS-REVOKED-2026** Arikamedu:
- (1) Excavation site located 2.5 miles south of Puducherry
(2) Archaeological site where excavations were first done in a scientific manner in 1945
(3) Popular tourist destination
(4) Modern scientific city / City of modern science
- (A) Only (1) correct
(B) (2) and (3) correct
(C) (1) and (4) correct
(D) (1) and (2) correct
-



Answers and Explanations

1. (B) Arikamedu

Arikamedu near Puducherry was a Roman trading station of the Sangam age; Roman coins, amphorae and Arretine ware have been found there.

2. (C) Glacial varve sequence – W.F. Libby

The glacial varve sequence was developed by Gerard De Geer; W.F. Libby developed radiocarbon (C-14) dating, so option C is mismatched.

3. (B) Mr. R. Sewell

Robert Sewell's 1904 study of Roman coin finds in India showed that Roman trade with South India began under Augustus.

4. (D) Silver

The early Roman coins found in Tamil Nadu are mostly silver denarii of Augustus and Tiberius; gold aurei became common later.

5. (A) Uthiramerur, Kanchipuram

The Uthiramerur inscriptions (Parantaka Chola I) in Kanchipuram district describe the kudavolai election system of village assemblies.

6. (A) Arikamedu

Augustan coins and Roman wares found at Arikamedu confirm its trade links with Rome.

7. (C) Augustus

The Roman coins found at Arikamedu belong to the reign of Emperor Augustus.

8. (A) Venni

At the battle of Venni, Karikala defeated the Chera, the Pandya and eleven Velir chiefs, the turning point of his career.

9. (C) Malarum Malaiyum

Malarum Malaiyum is by Kavimani Desika Vinayagam Pillai; the other three are Bharathidasan's works.

10. (C) Arikamedu

Mortimer Wheeler excavated Arikamedu in 1945 using the scientific stratigraphic method.

11. (A) Adichanallur

Adichanallur on the Thamiraparani in Thoothukudi district has an urn-burial site spread over about 114 acres.

12. (C) Keeladi

Keeladi, about 12 km south-east of Madurai on the Vaigai, provides evidence of a Sangam-age urban settlement.



13. (A) 1 2 4 3

Kilaiyur near Poompuhar was a Buddhist centre, Tirukkampuliyur reflects Kaveri-valley culture, Uraiyur shows Roman-Tamil trade and Thanjavur yielded Roman pottery, giving 1 2 4 3.

14. (A) (a) and (b) only

The Tamil-Brahmi inscriptions at Siddharmalai and Alagarmalai near Madurai mention 'Matirai' (Madurai).

15. (B) Arikamedu

Arikamedu was an Indo-Roman port; its Roman pottery, amphorae and coins show the scale of Tamil-Roman sea trade.

16. (B) (i), (ii) and (iii) are correct

Porpanaikottai has a Sangam-age hero stone, Arikamedu was a Sangam port and the Indian Treasure Trove Act dates from 1878. Roman coin hoards are concentrated in the Coimbatore (Kongu) region, not Tirunelveli, so (iv) is wrong.

17. (B) Mortimer Wheeler

Sir Mortimer Wheeler excavated Arikamedu in 1945 and established it as an Indo-Roman trading station.

18. (B) 3 4 2 1

Kodumanal is in Erode, Porunthal in Dindigul, Tiruvakkarai in Villupuram and Adichanallur in Thoothukudi, giving 3 4 2 1.

19. (A) Thulukkarpatti

Thulukkarpatti lies on the left bank of the Nambi river in Tirunelveli district and was excavated by the TN State Archaeology Department to trace Iron Age culture.

20. (B) Caldwell

Robert Caldwell first excavated Korkai, the Pandyan pearl-fishery port, in 1876.

21. (C) Veena

In the Kudimiyannmalai music inscription, 'Parivadini' refers to a seven-stringed veena.

22. (D) Thoothukudi

The oldest microliths in Tamil Nadu come from the Teri (red sand dune) sites of Thoothukudi district, such as around Sawyerpuram.

23. (A) Music

The Kudimiyannmalai inscription (Pudukkottai district) is a famous music inscription recording musical notations.

24. (A) 1 and 4 are correct

Perumpalai is in Dharmapuri and Thulukkarpatti in Tirunelveli; Mayiladumparai is actually in Krishnagiri and Sivakalai in Thoothukudi.

25. (A) Madurai

Ovamalai, near Mangulam in Madurai district, bears some of the earliest Tamil-Brahmi inscriptions.



26. (A) Paleolithic Age

Athirampakkam (Tiruvallur) yielded Acheulian hand-axes about 1.5 million years old, which belong to the Palaeolithic Age. (The TNPSC answer key had marked 'Mesolithic'.)

27. (A) 2 3 4 1

Adichanallur – Thoothukudi, Mankulam – Madurai, Kodumanal – Erode, Keeladi – Sivagangai.

28. (C) (i), (ii) and (iii) only

Keezhadi yielded brick structures, Tamil-Brahmi inscribed potsherds and copper kohl rods, but it is not mentioned in Pathitrapattu.

29. (A) Robert Bruce Foote

In 1863 Robert Bruce Foote found the first Palaeolithic hand-axe in India at Pallavaram near Chennai.

30. (A) Paiyampalli

Paiyampalli is a major Neolithic site in Tamil Nadu that yielded many polished stone celts (axes).

31. (A) Arikamedu

Wheeler's excavations confirmed a 1st-century AD Roman trading station at Arikamedu near Puducherry.

32. (A) Arachalur

The 2nd-century AD Tamil-Brahmi inscription at Arachalur (Erode district) records musical/dance syllables (svaras).

33. (B) Jagor

The German explorer Jagor first discovered and dug the Adichanallur urn-burial site in 1876.

34. (C) (2), (3), (4) are correct; (1) is incorrect

Arikamedu is near Puducherry, not Thanjavur; it was a Chola-region port trading with Rome and with Kaveripattinam, Alagankulam and Muziris.

35. (D) Tamil – Brahmi script

Hundreds of potsherds bearing Tamil-Brahmi (Tamil) inscriptions were found at Keeladi, showing early literacy among Tamils.

36. (C) Sivagangai

Keeladi lies in Thiruppuvanam taluk of Sivagangai district, on the Vaigai river southeast of Madurai.

37. (B) Both [A] and [R] are True; and [R] is the correct explanation of [A]

Sangam texts mention ironsmiths, and the iron-smelting furnaces excavated at Kodumanal and Guttur corroborate this.

38. (B) Berlin

Artefacts collected at Adichanallur by the German explorer Andreas Fedor Jagor in 1876 are kept in the Berlin museum.



39. (B) 4 3 1 2

Ring wells were found at Keezhadi, Roman coins at Azhagankulam and numerous shell bangles at Vembakottai; the only option fitting these is 4 3 1 2.

40. (C) (i) and (ii) only right

Brahmagiri (Karnataka) has an Ashokan minor rock edict, and the Chinnamanur plates mention Nedunchezhiyan, victor of Thalaiyalanganam. The Thirukkivilur inscription refers to Kapilar's death, not Avvaiyar's, and early hero stones do exist in Karnataka.

41. (A) 4 2 1 3

Pallavaram is in Chennai, Kambar Medu in the Thanjavur region, Mallapadi in the Dharmapuri (Krishnagiri) region and Kodumanal in Erode district.

42. (D) 4 3 2 1

Azhagankulam is in Ramanathapuram, Vasavasamudram in Kanchipuram (now Chengalpattu), Kodumanal in Erode and Keezhadi in Sivagangai district.

43. (B) (1) and (3) only

Pathitruppathu mentions the place as 'Kodumanam'; it is in Erode district, not near Trichy. Megalithic burials, beads and shell objects were found there (the English 'Paleolithic' is a misprint for megalithic).

44. (B) Robert Bruce Foote

In 1863 Robert Bruce Foote found a Palaeolithic hand-axe at Pallavaram, revealing Tamil Nadu's prehistoric antiquity to the world.

45. (A) 2 4 1 3

Poompuhar was excavated by Natana Kasinathan, Vellalur by Poongundran, Kodumanal by Y. Subbarayalu (Tamil University) and Karur by R. Nagaswamy (1973).

46. (C) (2), (3) and (4) are correct

The Thirumukkudal inscription belongs to Virarajendra, the Tiruvalangadu plates to Rajendra I and the Uthiramerur kudavolai inscriptions to Parantaka I; (C) is the only option containing all three.

47. (B) (2) only

Pattanam is an archaeological site in Kerala (near ancient Muziris), not in Tamil Nadu. Vasavasamudram, Kaveripoompattinam and Kodumanal are all in Tamil Nadu.

48. (A) [A] is true but [R] is false

Scientific dates from Keezhadi place Tamil Brahmi in the 6th century BCE, so the Assertion is true. The Porunthal and Kodumanal dates point to the 5th century BCE, so the Reason is false.

49. (A) (4) only

Robert Bruce Foote found the Pallavaram handaxe, and Jagor was a German ethnologist, not a British army engineer. Only Stuart - Collector is a correct pair.

50. (A) Ilam Kadungo

The Tamil-Brahmi inscriptions at Arnattarmalai, Pugalur record that the Chera prince Ilam Kadungo had stone beds made for a Jain ascetic.



51. (A) Both [A] and [R] are true and [R] is the correct explanation of [A]

The Roman coins and pottery (Arretine ware, amphorae) found at Arikamedu show Indo-Roman maritime trade in the early centuries CE, so R explains A.

52. (B) 2 4 1 3

Anamalai – burial type and burial goods; Tiruttangal – megalithic and microlithic finds; Kannanur – how the irrigation system was built; Kovalanpottal – evidence of megalithic culture at Madurai.

53. (C) (a) and (c) are correct

The Cholas, not the Cheras, ruled the Kaveri delta from Uraiyur. The Sangam Age grew out of the Iron Age, not the Bronze Age, so only (a) and (c) are correct.

54. (D) (1) and (2) are correct

Keezhadi potsherds carry Tamizhi (Tamil-Brahmi) letters. Most were scratched on by users after the pots had dried or been fired, which shows that ordinary people could read and write.

55. (D) (1) and (2) correct

Arikamedu is about 4 km (2.5 miles) south of Puducherry. Mortimer Wheeler excavated it scientifically in 1945.