



SHANMUGAM IAS ACADEMY

History of Tamil Society

Previous Year Questions (2020 – 2026)

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

81 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** Which one of the following is called as the tallest Gopura in South Asia?
(A) Meenakshi Amman temple Gopura (B) Sri Villiputhur Andal temple Gopura
(C) Arulmighu Aranganathar temple Gopura (D) Nellaippar temple Gopura
2. **VAS-AHGS-2020** Which of the following councils assisted the Sangam rulers?
(A) Sabha and Samithi (B) Aimperum Kuzhu and Enperayam
(C) Ashtadiggajas and Ashtapradhans (D) Ur and Mantram
3. **ARGS-2020** _____, the Moorish traveller, wrote about the condition of Tamil Nadu during Muhammad bin Tughlaq's rule.
(A) Ibn Battuta (B) Marco Polo
(C) Ptolemy (D) Livy
4. **PTGS-2021** Which book describes the marriage customs of the Sangam age people?
(A) Purananuru (B) Natrinai
(C) Akananuru (D) Kurunthokai
5. **AHGS-2021** Traditionally, the land of Tamils is presented as containing 5 major physiographic divisions. Match the following:
(a) Kurinji – 1. Fertile region
(b) Mullai – 2. Forest region
(c) Marudham – 3. Coastal region
(d) Neidhal – 4. Mountainous region
(A) 3 2 1 4 (B) 1 3 2 4
(C) 3 1 4 2 (D) 4 2 1 3
6. **ADGS-2021** Analyse the following statements:
A: The Eighth World Tamil Conference was held in 1995 at Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu.
B: This conference is specially known as the Tamil classical conference.
(A) A and B correct (B) A and B wrong
(C) A correct and B wrong (D) A wrong and B correct



7. **PSHY-2022** During the Sangam period, Kopperundevi, wife of Ariyappadai Kadandha Nedunjeliyan, died the moment her husband died. It was called _____.
(A) The Marakkarpu (B) Karpu
(C) Sati (D) The Arakarpu
-
8. **VCGS-2022** _____ was a unit of measuring gold in the Sangam age.
(A) Veli (B) Kalanju
(C) Marakkal (D) Kuppidu
-
9. **VCGS-2022** _____ Naligais were there for a day during the Sangam age.
(A) Twenty four (B) Twenty
(C) Ten (D) Sixty
-
10. **VCGS-2022** _____ was considered to be the brave entertainment of the Sangam society.
(A) Erutaluvudal (B) Ammanai
(C) Kilukili (D) Kalangu
-
11. **VCGS-2022** How were the village artisans called in medieval South India?
(A) Ayagars (B) Inamdars
(C) Mirasidars (D) Zamindars
-
12. **TNPSC-2022** Arrange the following stages of women in order:
1. Mangai 2. Arivai 3. Madanthai 4. Therivai
(A) 1 4 2 3 (B) 1 3 2 4
(C) 1 2 4 3 (D) 3 1 2 4
-
13. **Surveyor/Draftsman-2022** _____, a foreign account, called Muziris the "First Emporium of India".
(A) Natural History (B) Geography
(C) The Periplus of the Erythrean Sea (D) Buddhist chronicles
-
14. **G-2-2022** During the 'Later Chola period', 'Irayili' was associated with
(A) Tax free land (B) Taxed land
(C) Tax levied on temple land (D) Tax levied on leasing land
-



15. **G-6 Forest Apprentice-2022** Match the topographical divisions to their lands, called 'Thinai's' in Sangam society.
- (a) Kurinji - 1. Coastal area
(b) Mullai - 2. Agricultural area
(c) Marudham - 3. Desert area
(d) Neithal - 4. Hilly tracts
(e) Palai - 5. Pastoral area
- (A) 1 2 3 4 5
(B) 2 3 4 5 1
(C) 3 5 4 1 2
(D) 4 5 2 1 3
-
16. **G-6 Forest Apprentice-2022** Which of the following deals with the study of living people and their material culture?
- (A) Ethno Archaeology
(B) Historical Archaeology
(C) Economic Archaeology
(D) Pre-historic Archaeology
-
17. **G-6 Forest Apprentice-2022** The term 'aima' means
- (A) Prostration to the Emperor
(B) Kissing the Ground
(C) Four Salutations
(D) Lands donated to the purpose of prayer to God
-
18. **EO-GIII-2022** During the Sangam period the Agricultural area was called as
- (A) Kurinji
(B) Mullai
(C) Marudam
(D) Neidal
-
19. **EO-GIII-2022** Pallavan Kovil plates explain about
- (A) Svetambara Jaina order
(B) Digambara Jaina order
(C) Buddhist principles
(D) Genealogy of the Pallavas
-
20. **EO-GIII-2022** Varunan was the God of
- (A) People of Kurinji
(B) People of Mullai
(C) People of Neidal
(D) People of Marutham
-
21. **EO-2022** Which empire's embassies were received by Emperor Augustus Caesar at Terragoda and on the island of Cyprus?
- (A) Chera
(B) Chola
(C) Pallava
(D) Pandyan
-
22. **DPGS-2022** 'Houangtche' refers to the place
- (A) Kanchi
(B) Mysore
(C) Pandyas
(D) Puhar
-



-
23. **CEGS-2022** It is called as 'Troy of the East'
- (A) Vellore Fort (B) The fort at Chenji
(C) Fort of Tarangampadi (D) Sivaganga Fort
-
24. **CAGS-2022** The capital city of Sangam Cheras was
- (A) Kanchi (B) Musiri
(C) Venni (D) Vanji
-
25. **CAGS-2022** The original name of Karikal Chola
- (A) Karikala (B) Arunmozhi
(C) Thirumavalavan (D) Sundarar
-
26. **G-1-2022** Match:
- Tinais - Their Gods
- (a) Kurinji - 1. Kali
(b) Mullai - 2. Murugan
(c) Marudam - 3. Indra
(d) Palai - 4. Tirumal
- (A) 3 4 1 2 (B) 1 3 4 2
(C) 2 4 3 1 (D) 4 2 3 1
-
27. **G-1-2022** Which festival was celebrated throughout Tamilaham during the Sangam Age?
- (A) Adippooram (B) Onam
(C) Navarathiri (D) Thiruvathirai
-
28. **CSSE & SI Fisheries-FEB-2023, REPORTER-2022** The name of the script used in the Sangam Age.
- (A) Kharoshthi (B) Devanagari
(C) Tamil-Brahmi (D) Grantha
-
29. **Bursar-MAR-2023** What is meant by 'Ambanam' in the Sangam period?
- (A) A musical instrument (B) A measurement of paddy
(C) A kind of dance (D) A kind of festival
-
30. **Health Officer-MAR-2023** Which one was not included in the forehead ornaments of the women during the Sangam period?
- (A) Vayanthakam (B) Pullagam
(C) Makarappakuvai (D) Muttarai
-



31. **Health Officer-MAR-2023** The word 'Yavana Priya' denotes
- (A) Pepper (B) Turmeric
(C) Ginger (D) Cardamom
-
32. **Health Officer-MAR-2023** Padaiyachiyar were a class of
- (A) Musicians (B) Dancers
(C) Hunters (D) Militants
-
33. **Health Officer-MAR-2023** Match the following land divisions with animals:
- (a) Kurinji - 1. Sheep
(b) Palai - 2. Buffalo
(c) Mullai - 3. Tiger
(d) Marutham - 4. Jackal
- (A) 4 3 2 1 (B) 2 1 3 4
(C) 3 4 1 2 (D) 3 2 1 4
-
34. **Health Officer-MAR-2023** Which of the following was not a leader of the Mullai land?
- (A) Annal (B) Tonral
(C) Nadan (D) Verpan
-
35. **Health Officer-MAR-2023** 'Alvilai Piramana isaivu tittu' means
- (A) Export duty (B) Import duty
(C) Tax on slaves (D) Sales document of the slaves
-
36. **Road Inspector-MAY-2023** Which of the following pairs is not correct?
- (i) Ilanjetchenni - Chenguttuvan
(ii) Mangulam - Tamil Brahmi inscription
(iii) Uruttirankannanar - Pattinappalai
(iv) Velir Chieftains - Thithiyan
- (A) (i) only (B) (ii) only
(C) (iii) only (D) (iv) only
-
37. **DEO-MAY-2023** Reason and Assertion type:
- Assertion [A]: Tamil rulers patronized Tamil and Tamil poets in their courts.
Reason [R]: The words mandram, Avai, Ambalam and Mandru were used for Kings' Courts.
- (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. **DEO-MAY-2023** What basic need does IAY fulfill?
(A) Water (B) Clothing
(C) Housing (D) Food
-
39. **LIBRARY-2023** The Sangam poets and literature were patronised by
(A) Cholas (B) Pallavas
(C) Pandyas (D) Cheras
-
40. **CESS-2023** _____ gives a vivid account of Karikalan's reign.
(A) Maduraikanchi (B) Pattinappalai
(C) Patitruppathu (D) Paripadal
-
41. **JA-2023** Methods of measuring lands such as Are, Nivarthanam and Pattigai were followed during which king's period?
(A) Cholar period (B) Cherar period
(C) Pandiar period (D) Pallavan period
-
42. **JA-2023** Which flower is the symbol of chastity for women in Tamil society?
(A) Jasmine (B) Rose
(C) Mullai (D) Lily
-
43. **JSO-2023** Choose the right answer:
Which of the following statements is true about the trade activities of ancient Tamilagam?
(i) Kaveri Pumpattinam was also known as Anuradhapuram
(ii) There were two kinds of markets such as Allangadi and Nallangadi
(iii) Yavanars had trade contacts with ancient Tamils
(A) (i) only (B) (ii) and (iii) only
(C) (i) and (ii) only (D) (i) and (iii) only
-
44. **JSO-2023** Which literature describes Pasumpoon Pandiyan, the Sangam king, as having had white flags flying on his elephants?
(A) Agananooru (B) Purananooru
(C) Kalithogai (D) Paripaadal
-



45. **JSO-2023** Match List-I to List-II and answer using the codes given.
- (a) Recreational Town - 1. Panaji
(b) Administrative Town - 2. New Delhi
(c) Industrial Town - 3. Jamshedpur
(d) Religious Town - 4. Madurai
- (A) 2 1 3 4
(B) 1 2 3 4
(C) 4 3 2 1
(D) 2 4 3 1
-
46. **COMBINED RESEARCH ASSISTANT-2023** Assertion [A]: Palai is one of the habitable regions.
Reason [R]: The people of Palai domesticated animals.
- (A) [A] and [R] are true
(B) [A] is true, but [R] is false
(C) [A] is false, but [R] is true
(D) Both [A] and [R] are true but [R] is not the correct explanation of [A]
-
47. **ASSISTANT TRAINING OFFICER (TEXTILE)-2023** In Tamil Nadu, a Neolithic culture site is found in
- (A) Kanniyakumari
(B) Paiyampalli
(C) Kodumanal
(D) Adichanallur
-
48. **JUNIOR ANALYST (TN MEDICAL SERVICE)-2023** What can be said about the oral traditions in Tamil society?
- (i) Paan legacy
(ii) Paanar legacy
- (A) (i) only
(B) (ii) only
(C) (i) and (ii)
(D) None of the above
-
49. **JUNIOR ANALYST (TN MEDICAL SERVICE)-2023** Which one of the following was educational centre(s) under the Cholas?
1. Ennayiram
2. Thirubhuvanam
3. Thirumukkudal
4. Thiruvotriyur
- (A) 1, 2 only
(B) 2, 3 only
(C) 4 only
(D) All the above
-
50. **MASS INTERVIEWER-2023** Which one is not matching correctly?
- (i) Kurinji - Punarthal
(ii) Mullai - Iruthal
(iii) Marudam - Udal
(iv) Neydal - Pirithal
- (A) (i) only
(B) (ii) only
(C) (iii) only
(D) (iv) only



51. **HINDU RELIGIOUS EO G1-2024** Which of these items were shipped to King Solomon from Tamil Nadu in the 10th century BC?
- (A) Peacock feather, rice, ginger
(B) Peacock feather, elephant ivory, perfumes
(C) Ginger, Tippili, perfumes
(D) Ginger, Tippili, rice
-
52. **COMBINED ACCOUNTS SERVICE-2024** "The Ainnurruvar" of 8th and 13th centuries of Tamil Nadu refers to
- (A) Cavalry
(B) Infantry
(C) Merchant Guild
(D) Navy
-
53. **COMBINED ACCOUNTS SERVICE-2024** Match the following:
- (a) Kurinchi - 1. Looting
(b) Palai - 2. Weeding
(c) Mullai - 3. Bull Fighting (Jalli Kattu)
(d) Marutam - 4. Hunting
- (A) 4 3 2 1
(B) 4 1 3 2
(C) 4 2 1 3
(D) 1 2 3 4
-
54. **G4-2024** The Roman writer Pliny the Elder writes of _____ in his Natural History as the first emporium of India.
- (A) Kaveripumpattinam
(B) Nagapattinam
(C) Musiri
(D) Korkai
-
55. **G4-2024** The term "Satyaputra" found in the Ashokan inscription refers to
- (A) Adiyaman
(B) Karikalan
(C) Pari
(D) Neduncheralathan
-
56. **G2 & 2A-2024** Choose the Sangam period in which the poet Nakkirar was considered the most predominant poet:
- (a) First Sangam
(b) Third Sangam
(c) Second Sangam
(d) Fourth Sangam
- (A) (a) only
(B) (b) only
(C) (c) and (d) only
(D) (b) and (c) only
-
57. **G1-2024** Which place was the most important learning centre of the Jain scholars?
- (A) Madurai
(B) Trichy
(C) Tanjore
(D) Thiruvalangadu
-



58. **G1-2024** Match the following Titles of the Kings:
- (a) Pandiyar - 1. Aadhavan
(b) Cherar - 2. Thithiyan
(c) Chola - 3. Chezhiyan
(d) Aai - 4. Sembian
- (A) 3 4 2 1 (B) 3 1 4 2
(C) 3 2 1 4 (D) 4 3 1 2
-
59. **G1-2024** The temple for "Kannagi" was constructed by
- (A) Karikalan (B) Senguttuvan
(C) Ugraperuvazhudhi (D) Nediyan
-
60. **G1-2024** The Uttiramerur inscription reveals
- (1) Village Administration
(2) Written Constitution
(3) Perfect Electoral System
(4) Paranthaka Administration
- (A) (1) only (B) (1), (2), (3) only
(C) (1), (2) only (D) All the above
-
61. **CTSE-IV-2024** The earliest discovery of rock painting in Tamil Nadu was at
- (A) Perumukkal (B) Mallapadi
(C) Kilvalai (D) Sethavarai
-
62. **CTSE-ITI-2024** The ascending order of the administrative division in the ancient Tamizhagam was
- (1) Oor
(2) Nadu
(3) Kootram
(4) Mandalam
- (A) (3), (2), (1), (4) (B) (4), (3), (2), (1)
(C) (1), (3), (2), (4) (D) (1), (2), (3), (4)
-
63. **CTSE-IV-II-2024** Match the following type:
- (a) Strabo - 1. Greek Historian
(b) J.A. Dubois - 2. Roman Traveller
(c) Megasthenes - 3. Chinese Traveller
(d) Fahien - 4. French Missionary
- (A) 4 2 3 1 (B) 2 4 1 3
(C) 1 3 2 4 (D) 2 3 4 1
-



64. **G1B&C-2024** What is the meaning derived from the Tamil Inscription transcribed on the Hero stone?
[Inscription: kal / petutiyān antavan / kutaḷ ur a koḷ]
(A) Aakkolil maranamadaintha Anthavannuku
pedu theeya kullam sarntha kudalūr kaḷ
(B) Aakkolil anthavan theeyan kudalūr kaḷ pedu
(C) Kaḷ pedu theeyan anthavan cuddal oor
aakkol
(D) Kudallūr aakkolil maranamadaintha pedu
theeya kullam sarntha anthavanuku
yedukkapatta kaḷ
65. **G1B&C-2024** Arrange the following grants in chronological order.
1. Velvikkudi grant
2. Sivakasi grant
3. Sinnamanur grant
4. Srivaramangalam grant
(A) 4, 2, 3, 1
(B) 1, 4, 3, 2
(C) 3, 2, 1, 4
(D) 2, 1, 3, 4
66. **G1B&C-2024** Which of the following statements are true about the Mullai land?
1. The people of mullai land are cattle herders
2. Indhiran is worshipped as God
3. Mullai land is forest and forest-related land
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 2 only
67. **APP-GII-2025** Match the following:
(a) Mullai - 1. Varuna
(b) Marudam - 2. Kōtravai
(c) Neydal - 3. Mayon
(d) Palai - 4. Vandan
(A) 3 1 4 2
(B) 3 4 1 2
(C) 3 2 4 1
(D) 1 4 2 3
68. **SCE-2025** Thirunavukkarasar said, "_____ as Kalviyil Karai Illatha"
(A) Madurai
(B) Kanchi
(C) Poombuhār
(D) Thanjai
69. **SCE-2025** Which Tamil king's name is found to be inscribed on the Tamil-Brahmi inscriptions found in Mangulam?
(A) Nedunchezhiyan
(B) Chenguttuvan
(C) Neduncheralathan
(D) Karikalan



- 70. G1&1A-2025 Assertion [A]: Some poets live on their prize money. Most of the poets have their own professions. They don't depend on prizes.**
Reason [R]: When poets who make a living out of their prizes get prizes of low value / below their expectation, they reject it.
- (A) [A] is true but [R] is false
(B) Both [A] and [R] are true, but [R] is not the correct explanation of [A]
(C) Both [A] and [R] are true; and [R] is the correct explanation of [A]
(D) [A] is false, [R] is true
-
- 71. G1&1A-2025 Choose the wrong pair:**
1. Thodakku - The ornaments on the neck
 2. Andalai Aduppu - Cock shaped
 3. Iyavithulam - Weapons for gouging the eyes
 4. Yeri Chiral - The equipment to stock bow and arrows
- (A) 1 and 4 incorrectly matched
(B) 1 and 2 incorrectly matched
(C) 2 and 3 incorrectly matched
(D) 3 and 4 incorrectly matched
-
- 72. CTS (IV Post)-2025, JRO & Asst Prof (Psychology)-MAR-2023 Match the deities correctly with their corresponding landscapes:**
- (a) Mayon - 1. Neydal
(b) Seyon - 2. Kurinji
(c) Vendan - 3. Mullai
(d) Varunan - 4. Marudham
- (A) 2 3 1 4
(B) 3 2 4 1
(C) 4 1 2 3
(D) 1 3 2 4
-
- 73. Group 2 & 2A-2025 Which of the following are correctly paired?**
- (1) Kurinji - Parrot
 - (2) Mullai - Wild-cock
 - (3) Marudam - Lark
 - (4) Neydal - Owl
 - (5) Palai - Pigeon
- (A) (1), (2), (3), (4), (5)
(B) (2), (3), (4)
(C) (3), (4), (5)
(D) (1), (2), (5)



74. CTS ITI Level II-2025 Match the following timeline of early Tamilnadu:

- (a) Megalithic Age - 1. 300 AD to 500 AD
- (b) Sangam Age - 2. 400 BC to 300 BC
- (c) Introduction of Brahmi Scripts - 3. 300 BC to 300 AD
- (d) Post Sangam Age - 4. 1300 BC to 300 BC

(A) (1) (2) (3) (4)

(B) (4) (3) (2) (1)

(C) (2) (1) (4) (3)

(D) (1) (3) (4) (2)

75. CTS ITI Level II-2025 Match the following:

- (a) Kilavan - (1) Possessor of land
- (b) Asudaiyan - (2) Leader
- (c) Nayagam - (3) Headman
- (d) Araiyan - (4) Urar
- (5) Captain of a regiment

(A) (2) (1) (5) (4)

(B) (3) (1) (5) (2)

(C) (5) (3) (2) (4)

(D) (2) (4) (1) (3)

76. APP Grade II-2026 Choose the right matches among the following:

- (1) Hyder Ali - Garuda
- (2) Tipu Sultan - Tiger
- (3) Cholas - Tiger
- (4) Pandiyas - Lion

(A) (1) and (3) are correct

(B) (1) and (2) are correct

(C) (2) and (3) are correct

(D) (3) and (4) are correct

77. APP Grade II-2026 Which marriage is celebrated without parental consent?

(A) Gantharvam

(B) Brammam

(C) Aritam

(D) Asuram

78. APP Grade II-2026 Match the following kings to their kingdoms:

- (a) Nalliyakodan - 1. Chengam
- (b) Athiyaman - 2. Koviloor
- (c) Malayaman Tirumudikari - 3. Tindivanam
- (d) Nannan - 4. Thagadoor

(A) 4 3 1 2

(B) 1 2 3 4

(C) 3 4 2 1

(D) 3 1 2 4



79. **CTS (IV Post)-2026** Read the following assertion and reason and select the correct answer from the code given below:

Assertion [A]: The Tamils had the knowledge of iron as early as in the 4th millennium BCE.

Reason [R]: Iron objects dating between 2427 and 3345 BCE were obtained in different places in Tamilnadu.

(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]

80. **Group 2A Mains-2025** Arrange the following periods in order:

(1) Prehistoric period

(2) Chola's period

(3) Sangam period

(4) Pallava's period

(A) (1), (4), (3), (2)

(B) (2), (4), (1), (3)

(C) (1), (3), (4), (2)

(D) (2), (3), (4), (1)

81. **Group 2A Mains (Revoked)-2026** Choose the correct matches from the given matches:

(1) Chera King - Vanji-Thondi

(2) Chola King - Madurai-Korkai

(3) Pandiya King - Uraiyur-Poombugar

(4) King Ashoka - Samba Inscription

(A) (3) and (4) only

(B) (1) and (4) only

(C) (2) and (3) only

(D) (4) and (2) only



Answers and Explanations

1. (C) Arulmighu Aranganathar temple Gopura

The Rajagopuram of the Sri Ranganathaswamy temple at Srirangam (about 73 m, 13 tiers) is the tallest temple tower in South Asia.

2. (B) Aimperum Kuzhu and Enperayam

Sangam kings were assisted by the Aimperum Kuzhu (five great assemblies) and the Enperayam (eight great groups). Sabha-Samiti are Vedic, the Ashtadiggajas belong to Vijayanagara and the Ashtapradhan to the Marathas.

3. (A) Ibn Battuta

Ibn Battuta of Morocco visited India under Muhammad bin Tughlaq and also wrote about the Madurai Sultanate.

4. (C) Akananuru

Akananuru poems (notably 86 and 136) describe Sangam-age wedding rituals in detail.

5. (D) 4 2 1 3

Kurinji – hills, Mullai – forest, Marudham – fertile farmland, Neidhal – coast. The fifth, Palai, is arid land.

6. (C) A correct and B wrong

The 8th World Tamil Conference was held at Thanjavur in 1995. The World Classical Tamil Conference was held at Coimbatore in 2010.

7. (D) The Arakarpu

Kopperundevi's chastity, giving up her life the moment her husband died, is called Arakarpu (virtuous chastity), whereas Kannagi's wrathful burning of Madurai is called Marakarpu (heroic chastity).

8. (B) Kalanju

Kalanju measured gold; Veli measured land and Marakkal measured grain.

9. (D) Sixty

One day = 60 naligais; one naligai = 24 minutes.

10. (A) Erutaluvudal

Erutaluvudal (today's Jallikattu) was the heroic bull-embracing sport of the Mullai region, described in Kalithogai.

11. (A) Ayagars

Ayagars were the village servants and artisans (Vijayanagara period); Mirasidars and Zamindars were landholders.

12. (B) 1 3 2 4

The seven stages: Pedhai, Pedhumbai, Mangai, Madanthai, Arivai, Therivai, Perilampen. So Mangai → Madanthai → Arivai → Therivai.



13. (A) Natural History

Pliny's Natural History calls Muziris 'primum emporium Indiae' – the first emporium of India.

14. (A) Tax free land

In the Chola period 'irai' meant tax; 'irayili' was land exempted from tax.

15. (D) 4 5 2 1 3

Kurinji – hills, Mullai – forest/pasture, Marudham – farmland, Neithal – coast, Palai – arid land.

16. (A) Ethno Archaeology

Ethno-archaeology studies living peoples and their material culture to help interpret the archaeological past.

17. (D) Lands donated to the purpose of prayer to God

Under the Mughals, 'aima' (madad-i-maash) was revenue-free land granted to religious scholars for prayer and religious purposes.

18. (C) Marudam

Fertile cultivated land (fields and their surroundings) was called Marudam.

19. (B) Digambara Jaina order

The Pallankovil copper plates of Simhavarman record a grant to a monk of the Digambara Jaina order.

20. (C) People of Neidal

Varunan, the sea god, was the deity of the coastal Neidal people.

21. (D) Pandyan

Classical writers such as Strabo record that a Pandyan king sent an embassy to the Roman Emperor Augustus.

22. (A) Kanchi

In Chinese records 'Houangtche' (Huang-chih) refers to Kanchi.

23. (B) The fort at Chenji

The Gingee (Chenji) fort was called the 'Troy of the East' by the British for its impregnability.

24. (D) Vanji

The Sangam Cheras ruled from Vanji (Karur); Musiri was their port.

25. (C) Thirumavalavan

Karikala's original name was Thirumavalavan; Arunmozhi was the name of Rajaraja I.

26. (C) 2 4 3 1

Kurinji – Murugan, Mullai – Tirumal, Marudam – Indra, Palai – Korravai (Kali).

27. (D) Thiruvathirai

Paripadal describes the Thiruvathirai festival in the month of Markazhi, with the women's ritual bath (amba adal); it was celebrated across Tamilakam.



28. (C) Tamil-Brahmi

Sangam-age inscriptions are in the Tamil-Brahmi script.

29. (B) A measurement of paddy

Ambanam was a measuring vessel used for paddy in the Sangam period.

30. (D) Muttarai

Vayanthakam, Pullagam and Makarappakuvai were head/forehead ornaments; Muttaram was a pearl necklace worn on the neck.

31. (A) Pepper

Pepper was called 'Yavanapriya' because it was greatly prized by the Yavanas (Romans).

32. (D) Militants

'Padai' means army; the Padaiyachiyar were a warrior (military) class.

33. (C) 3 4 1 2

Kurinji - tiger, Palai - jackal/wolf, Mullai - sheep, Marutham - buffalo.

34. (D) Verpan

Verpan denotes the chief of the hilly Kurinji region, not of Mullai.

35. (D) Sales document of the slaves

'Al-vilai piramana isaivu tittu' was a deed recording the sale of persons (slaves).

36. (A) (i) only

Ilanjetchenni was a Chola king while Chenguttuvan was a Chera king, so pair (i) is wrong; the others are correct.

37. (D) Both [A] and [R] are true but [R] is not the correct explanation of [A]

Sangam rulers did patronize poets, and courts were called mandram, avai etc., but the names of the courts do not explain the patronage.

38. (C) Housing

Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) provided housing for the rural poor.

39. (C) Pandyas

The Pandya kings of Madurai convened the Tamil Sangams and patronised Sangam poets and literature.

40. (B) Pattinappalai

Pattinappalai by Kadiyalur Uruthirankannanar describes Karikala Chola's reign and the port city of Kaveripumpattinam in detail.

41. (D) Pallavan period

Pallava copper-plate grants mention land measures such as Are (Er), Nivartana and Pattika.



42. (C) Mullai

Mullai stands for patient waiting (iruttal) of the wife, so the mullai flower symbolises women's chastity ('mullai saanra karpu').

43. (B) (ii) and (iii) only

Kaveripumpattinam was called Puhar, not Anuradhapuram (a Sri Lankan city); Allangadi (evening) and Nalangadi (day) markets existed, and Yavanas traded with Tamils.

44. (A) Agananooru

The reference to white flags on Pasumpoon Pandiyan's elephants occurs in a poem of Akananuru.

45. (B) 1 2 3 4

Panaji is a recreational (tourist) town, New Delhi administrative, Jamshedpur industrial (steel) and Madurai a religious temple town.

46. (B) [A] is true, but [R] is false

Palai is counted among the five habitable tinai regions, but its people (Eyinar, Maravar) lived by plunder, not by rearing animals (that was Mullai).

47. (B) Paiyampalli

Paiyampalli in Vellore district is a key Neolithic site of Tamil Nadu; Kodumanal and Adichanallur are Iron Age sites.

48. (C) (i) and (ii)

Tamil oral tradition is described both as the Paan (song) tradition and the Paanar (bardic) tradition of the singers who carried it.

49. (D) All the above

Chola inscriptions record colleges (salais) at Ennayiram, Thirubhuvanam, Thirumukkudal and Thiruvotriyur.

50. (D) (iv) only

The theme of Neydal is irangal (pining); pirithal (separation) belongs to Palai.

51. (B) Peacock feather, elephant ivory, perfumes

Biblical accounts record that ships carried peacock (feathers), ivory and fragrant goods such as sandalwood from the Tamil coast to King Solomon.

52. (C) Merchant Guild

The Ainnurruvar (Five Hundred of Aihole) was a famous South Indian merchant guild.

53. (B) 4 1 3 2

Kurinji – hunting, Palai – looting, Mullai – bull-taming (eru thazhuvuthal), Marutham – weeding in agriculture.

54. (C) Musiri

Pliny the Elder in his Natural History calls the Chera port Muziris 'primum emporium Indiae', the first emporium of India.



55. (A) Adiyaman

The Jambai inscription calls Adiyaman 'Satiyaputo', identifying the Satyaputras of Ashoka's edicts with the Adiyaman line.

56. (B) (b) only

According to the Iraiyanar Akapporul commentary, Nakkirar was the leading poet of the Third (last) Sangam at Madurai.

57. (A) Madurai

Madurai and its surrounding hills hosted many Jain schools, and Vajranandi founded the Dravida Sangha at Madurai in 470 CE.

58. (B) 3 1 4 2

Pandyas bore the title Chezhiyan, Cheras Aadhavan, Cholas Sembian and the Aai chief Thithiyan, giving 3 1 4 2.

59. (B) Senguttuvan

According to Silappathikaram, the Chera king Senguttuvan brought a stone from the Himalayas and built a temple for Kannagi, starting the Pattini cult.

60. (D) All the above

The Uttiramerur inscriptions of Parantaka I record, as written rules, the village administration, its sabha and committees, and the kudavolai election system.

61. (B) Mallapadi

The rock paintings at Mallapadi (Krishnagiri district), found in 1978, were the first rock art discovered in Tamil Nadu.

62. (C) (1), (3), (2), (4)

From smallest to largest: Oor (village) → Kootram → Nadu → Mandalam (province).

63. (B) 2 4 1 3

Megasthenes was the Greek author of Indica, Abbe J.A. Dubois a French missionary, Fahien a Chinese pilgrim, and Strabo (geographer of the Roman era) is matched with Roman traveller: 2 4 1 3.

64. (D) Kudallur aakkolil maranamadaintha pedu theeya kullam sarntha anthavanuku yedukkapattakal

'Akol' means a cattle raid; the stone was erected for Pedu Theeyan Anthavan who died in the cattle raid at Kudalur.

65. (B) 1, 4, 3, 2

Velvikkudi (Nedunjadaiyan Parantaka, 8th c.) comes first, then Srivaramangalam, then Sinnamanur (Rajasimha, early 10th c.), and Sivakasi (Vira Pandya, mid-10th c.) last.

66. (C) 1 and 3 only

Mullai is forest and its surroundings, where herdsmen reared cattle; its deity is Mayon (Thirumal). Indra (Vendan) is the deity of Marutham.



67. (B) 3 4 1 2

Mullai - Mayon, Marutham - Vendan (Indra), Neythal - Varuna, Palai - Kotravai: 3 4 1 2.

68. (B) Kanchi

Appar praised Kanchipuram as "Kalviyal karai illatha Kanchi", a city of boundless learning and the great education centre of the Pallava age.

69. (A) Nedunchezhiyan

The Mangulam Tamil-Brahmi inscriptions near Madurai name the Pandya king Nedunchezhiyan as the donor of rock beds for Jain monks.

70. (B) Both [A] and [R] are true, but [R] is not the correct explanation of [A]

Many Sangam poets followed their own trades and only some lived on gifts, and gift-seeking poets did refuse unworthy gifts. Both statements are true, but R does not explain A.

71. (D) 3 and 4 incorrectly matched

Among the Madurai fort devices in Silappathikaram, Iyavithulam is a beam device for striking enemies, and Erichiral is a kingfisher-shaped device that pecks the enemy's eyes. Pairs 3 and 4 are therefore wrong.

72. (B) 3 2 4 1

Mayon (Vishnu) is the deity of Mullai, Seyon (Murugan) of Kurinji, Vendan (Indra) of Marudham and Varunan of Neydal.

73. (D) (1), (2), (5)

Kurinji's birds are parrot and peacock, Mullai's is the wild cock, and Palai's are pigeon and kite. Marudam has stork and swan, and Neydal has the seagull, so pairs (3) and (4) are wrong.

74. (B) (4) (3) (2) (1)

The TN textbook dates the Megalithic Age to 1300-300 BC, the introduction of Brahmi to 400-300 BC, the Sangam Age to 300 BC-300 AD and the post-Sangam age to 300-500 AD.

75. (B) (3) (1) (5) (2)

Kilavan denotes the village headman, Asudaiyan the possessor of land, Nayagam the captain of a regiment and Araiyan a leader.

76. (C) (2) and (3) are correct

Tipu Sultan's emblem was the tiger and the Chola emblem was also the tiger; the Pandya emblem was the fish (carp), not the lion.

77. (A) Gantharvam

Gandharva marriage is a union by mutual love of the couple without parental consent, and it is likened to the Tamil kalavu marriage.

78. (C) 3 4 2 1

Nalliyakodan ruled the Tindivanam region, Athiyaman ruled Thagadoor (Dharmapuri), Malayaman Thirumudikari ruled Thirukkuviloor and Nannan ruled the Chengam region.



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

Per the 2025 'Antiquity of Iron' report, iron objects from Sivakalai and other sites were dated as early as 3345 BCE, which is the evidence that Tamils knew iron in the 4th millennium BCE.

80. (C) (1), (3), (4), (2)

The correct order is Prehistoric, Sangam (300 BC–300 AD), Pallava (6th–9th century AD), then Imperial Chola (9th–13th century AD).

81. (B) (1) and (4) only

The Chera capital was Vanji with Thondi as its port, while Madurai–Korkai belong to the Pandyas and Uraiyur–Puhar to the Cholas, so (2) and (3) are wrong and only option B remains with (1) and (4).

