

Combined Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination – II
(Group II and IIA Services)

[Single Paper consisting of General Studies (Degree Standard – 75 questions), Aptitude and Mental Ability (SSLC Standard – 25 questions), and Language (General Tamil or General English – (SSLC Standard – 100 questions)]

Part A: General Studies (Degree Standard – 75 Questions)

Unit I: General Science (5 Questions)

- Scientific knowledge and scientific temper - Power of reasoning - Rote learning vs conceptual learning - Science as a tool to understand the past, present, and future;
- Nature of universe - General scientific laws – Mechanics - Properties of matter, force, motion, and energy - Everyday application of the basic principles of mechanics, electricity and magnetism, light, sound, heat, nuclear physics, laser, electronics, and communications;
- Elements and compounds, acids, bases, salts, petroleum products, fertilizers, pesticides;
- Main concepts of life science, classification of living organisms, evolution, genetics, physiology, nutrition, health and hygiene, human diseases;
- Environment and ecology;
- Latest inventions in science and technology; Current affairs.

Unit II: Geography of India (5 Questions)

- Location - Physical features - Monsoon, rainfall, weather and climate
- Water resources - Rivers in India - Soil, Minerals and Natural Resources - Forest and Wildlife - Agricultural pattern;
- Transport – Communication;
- Social Geography – Population density and distribution - Racial, linguistic groups and major tribes;
- Natural calamity - Disaster management; Environmental pollution - Reasons and preventive measures - Climate change - Green energy;
- Geographical landmarks; Current affairs.

Unit III: History, Culture of India, and Indian National Movement (10 Questions)

- Indus Valley Civilization - Guptas, Delhi Sultans, Mughals, and Marathas - Age of Vijayanagaram and Bahmani Kingdoms - South Indian History;
- National Renaissance - Early uprising against British rule - Indian National Congress - Emergence of leaders – B.R.Ambedkar, Bhagat Singh, Bharathiar, V.O.Chidambaranar, Jawaharlal Nehru, Kamarajar, Mahatma Gandhi, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Thanthai Periyar, Rajaji, Subash Chandra Bose, Rabindranath Tagore, and others;
- Different modes of agitation: Growth of Satyagraha and Militant Movements; Communalism and Partition;
- Change and continuity in the socio-cultural history of India;
- Characteristics of Indian Culture, Unity in Diversity – Race, Language, Custom;

- India as a secular state, Social harmony;
- Prominent personalities in various spheres – Arts, Science, Literature and Philosophy.

Unit IV: Indian Polity (15 Questions)

- Constitution of India - Preamble to the Constitution - Salient features of the Constitution - Union, State and Union Territory - Citizenship, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties, Directive Principles of State Policy - Union Executive, Union Legislature - State Executive, State Legislature - Local Governments, Panchayat Raj
- Spirit of federalism: Centre - State relationships - Election - Judiciary in India – Rule of Law - Corruption in public life – Anti-corruption measures - Lokpal and Lok Ayukta - Right to Information - Empowerment of Women - Consumer Protection Forums, Human Rights Charter; Political parties and political system in India; Current affairs.

Unit V: Indian Economy and Development Administration in Tamil Nadu (20 Questions)

- Nature of Indian Economy – Five-year plan models - an assessment - Planning Commission and Niti Aayog;
- Sources of revenue - Reserve Bank of India - Fiscal Policy and Monetary Policy - Finance Commission - Resource sharing between Union and State Governments - Goods and Services Tax;
- Structure of Indian Economy and Employment Generation, Land Reforms and Agriculture - Application of Science and Technology in Agriculture - Industrial growth - Rural welfare-oriented programmes

- Social problems - Population, Education, Health, Employment, Poverty;
- Human Development Indicators in Tamil Nadu and a comparative assessment across the Country – Impact of social reform movements in the socio-economic development of Tamil Nadu - Political parties, and welfare schemes for various sections of people - Rationale behind the reservation policy, and access to the social resources - Economic trends in Tamil Nadu - Role and impact of social welfare schemes in the socio-economic development of Tamil Nadu - Social Justice and social harmony as the cornerstones of socio-economic development;
- Education and health systems in Tamil Nadu;
- Geography of Tamil Nadu and its impact on economic growth;
- Achievements of Tamil Nadu in various fields;
- e-Governance in Tamil Nadu;
- Public awareness and General administration - Welfare oriented Government schemes and their utility, Problems in public delivery systems; Current socio-economic issues; Current affairs.

Unit VI: History, Culture, Heritage, and Socio-Political Movements in Tamil Nadu (20 Questions)

- History of Tamil Society, related archaeological discoveries, Tamil literature from Sangam age till contemporary times - Thirukkural - Significance as a secular literature - Relevance to everyday life, Impact of Thirukkural on humanity, Thirukkural and universal values - Relevance to Socio-politico economic affairs, Philosophical content in Thirukkural;

- Role of Tamil Nadu in freedom struggle - Early agitations against British Rule - Role of women in freedom struggle; Evolution of 19th and 20th century socio-political movements in Tamil Nadu - Justice Party, Growth of Rationalism - Self Respect Movement, Dravidian Movement, and principles underlying both these movements; Contributions of Thanthai Periyar and Perarignar Anna.

Part B: Aptitude and Mental Ability (SSLC Standard – 25 Questions)

Unit I: Aptitude (15 Questions)

Simplification - Percentage - Highest Common Factor (HCF) - Lowest Common Multiple (LCM) - Ratio and Proportion - Simple interest - Compound interest - Area - Volume - Time and Work.

Unit II: Reasoning (10 Questions)

Logical reasoning - Puzzles - Dice - Visual reasoning - Alpha numeric reasoning - Number series.

Part C: Language – General English or General Tamil (SSLC Standard – 100 Questions)

GENERAL ENGLISH

Unit I: Grammar (25 Questions)

Parts of speech, Concord, Tense, Active voice and passive voice, Types of sentences, Statement, Interrogative, Imperative, Exclamatory, Transformation of statements into imperatives, Interrogatives into statements, Assertives into negatives, Exclamatory sentences into Statement, Imperatives into Inquisitive Interrogatives, Imperatives into

Appreciative Statements, Verbs, Main Verbs and Auxiliary Verbs , Regular and Irregular Verbs, Infinitives, Gerunds, Participles, Question tags, Sentence patterns, Types of sentences, Simple, Compound and Complex, Phrases and clauses, Degrees of comparison, Positive, Comparative and Superlative, Direct into Indirect and Indirect to Direct, Synthesis of sentences, Punctuations.

Unit II: Vocabulary (15 Questions)

Synonyms, Antonyms, Homonyms, Homophones, Collocations, Idioms & Phrases, Phrasal verbs, Spelling of words, Correct usage of words, One word substitution, Word creation, Singular and plural (including Zero plural), Derivatives, Abbreviations, British and American English, Compound words and Figures of speech.

Unit III: Writing Skills (10 Questions)

Letter writing (formal and informal) – Types of Letters (Multiple Choice Question), Jumbled sentences, finding out the right order of sentences, Making queries (Multiple Choice Question), Inferences, Blanks, Substitutions.

Unit IV: Technical Terms (10 Questions)

Administrative Terms, Department related, General and Official terms, Official Correspondence (only basics).

Unit V: Reading Comprehension (20 Questions)

Unseen passages (News Paper, Headlines, Editorials, Government related News), Question Types - Strong question, Weak question, Match the

following, Sentence Completion, Ascertainment of facts (Multiple Choice Question) - Choose the best response.

Unit VI: Translation (5 Questions)

Word Translation, Sentence Translation, Tense related translation tasks, Tense / Voice related tasks.

Unit VII: Literary Works (15 Questions) (SSLC Standard)

Note: The Syllabus for Unit VII is based on school textbooks (up to SSLC Standard).

Figures of Speech; Appreciation and Analysis of Poetry; Lines of Significance

Poem

I Dream of Spices – Raj Arumugam; The Crocodile – Lewis Carroll; Teamwork – Edger Albert Guest; From a Railway Carriage – Robert Louis Balfour Stevenson; A Tragic Story – William Makepeace Thackeray; Sea Fever – John Masefield; Courage – Edger Albert Guest; The Age of Chivalry – George Krokos; Wandering Singers – Sarojini Naidu; The Listeners – Walter de la mere; Your Space – David Bates; Special Hero – Christine M. Kerschan; Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening – Robert Frost; Leisure – William Henry Davies; A Poison Tree – William Blake; The Power of a Smile – Tupac Shakur; On Killing a Tree – Gieve Patel; Advice from a Tree – Ilan Shamir; The Spider and The Fly – Mary Howitt; Never Trust a Mirror – Erin Hanson; The River – Ilan Shamir; Nature the Gentlest Mother – Emily Dickinson; The Comet – Norman Littleford; The Star – Jane Taylor; The Stick-Together Families – Edgar Albert Guest; Memories of My Dad – Rebecca D. cook; Life – Henry Van Dyke; The Grumble Family - L.M. Montgomery; The Secret of the Machines – Rudyard Kipling; The House on Elm Street – Naida Bush.

Prose

His First Flight – Liam O’ Flaherty; The Night the Ghost Got In – James Grover Thurber; Empowered Women Navigating the World; The Attic – Satyajit Ray; Tech Bloomers; The Last Lesson – Alphonse Daudet; The Dying Detective - Arthur Canon Doyle; Learning The Game - Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar; I Can’t Climb Trees Anymore – Ruskin Bond; Old Man River – Dorothy Deming (Drama); Seventeen Oranges – Bill Naughton; Water – The Elixir of Life – Sir C.V. Raman; From Zero to Infinity – Biography of Srinivasa Ramanujan; A Birthday Letter – Jawaharlal Nehru; The Nose Jewel – C.Rajagopalachari; Hobby – Turns A Successful Career; Sir Isaac Newton – The Ingenious Scientist – Nathaniel Hawthorne; My Reminiscence – Rabindranath Tagore; Sea Turtles – Sheker Dattatri; When the Trees Walked – Ruskin Bond; A Visitor from Distant Lands; Sports Stars – Mithali Dorai Raj; The Last Stone Carver – Sigrun Srivastav; Eidgah – Munshi Premchand; The Wind on Haunted Hill – Ruskin Bond; A Prayer to the Teacher – Subroto Bagchi; The Tempest – Tales From Shakespeare; A Hunter Turned Naturalist – Jim Corbett; The Cat and the Painkiller (An Extract from the Adventures of Tom Sawyer) – Mark Twain.

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