

**Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission**  
**Syllabus**  
**Anthropology and History**  
**(Degree Standard)**

**Code: 620**

**Unit I: Anthropology, Human Evolution and Variation (20 Questions)**

Anthropology - Origin and History; Meaning and Definitions; Uniqueness and approaches - Holistic, Comparative, Integrative, Cross-Cultural, Human Friendly and Relativistic, etc; Scope and Utility: Subfields Branches – Physical / Biological Anthropology, Archaeological / Prehistoric Anthropology, Social - Cultural Anthropology and Linguistics Anthropology; Relationship of Anthropology with Sociology, Psychology, Archaeology, History, Economics, Geography and Politics. Indian Anthropology.

Emergence and dispersal of Homo sapiens-Characteristic and geographical distribution of early humans; Theories of human origin and Evolution; Position of Human in the Animal kingdom; Stages of Human Evolution; Adaptation and change; Race and Ethnicity, Peopling and People of India. History, Proto-history and Prehistory-Global and Indian; Archaeology and Reconstruction of Past; Approaches and methods of estimation of time-Absolute and Relative methods of dating.

**Unit II: Society and Social Organisations (25 Questions)**

Society - Characteristics and Types; Individual and Society, Status and Role; Groups, Association, Community, Institution, Social Structure, Socialization, Social Organization, Social System and Social stratification; Society in India.

Marriage - Definition, Universal Definition of Marriage; Nature, Functions, and Forms of Marriage; Rules of Marriage, Incest Taboo; Ways of acquiring mates, Marriage Payments: Bride Price, Bride Wealth, and Dowry; Divorce; widowhood and remarriage; Marriage systems in India.

Family-Definition, Functions, and Universality of Family, Types and classification of Family; Nature of Family in India; Household vs Family: Lineage, Clan, Phratry, Moiety, Right-de-Passage; Ritual, Myth, Folklore.

Kinship-Definition, Terminology, and Types of Kinship; Kinship Behaviour- Avoidance, Joking Relationship Teknonymy, Avunculate, Animate and Couvade; Descent and Descent groups; Importance of Kinship; Kinship system in India. Social and Cultural Change-Global and Indian context.

Rural or Village Society - Ethnicity and Community. Tribe-Characteristics, Classification and Distribution in India; Tribal Administration and Constitutional safeguards; Tribal Development, Problems and Tribal movements in India: Tribal Communities of Tamil Nadu. Peasant and their Significance; Structure and Function of Indian Village; Significance of Caste & Class System in India: Agrarian and Peasant movements in India. Panchayat Raj, Social Change and Impact of Market/Industrial Economy on Indian Villages. Urban and Complex Society-Meaning and characteristics, Urbanism and Urbanisation; Folk-Urban-Continuum; Urban problems-Migration, Poverty, Culture of Poverty, Study on Slum, Study on Beggars, Drug, Alcoholism, Environmental degradation, Pollution and Health issues; Development and Globalization in Indian Context.

**Unit III: Concept of Culture (25 Questions)**

Culture - Meaning and Definitions; Elements, Culture and Civilization; Material and Non-material Culture; Cultural trait, Culture complex, Culture area, Cultural diversity and Multiculturalism; Ethnocentrism, Egalitarianism, Enculturation, Acculturation, Cultural Lag and Culture Shock;

Culture of India. Social and Cultural Change-Diffusion, Assimilation, Integration, Innovation, Syncretism, Dominance, and Subjugation. Institution and Organization-Meaning and Definition. Cultural Property, Museum and Archives; Folklore and Heritage; Culture, Machine, Internet and AI, Commodification of Culture.

#### **Unit IV: Religious, Economic and Political Organisations (15 Questions)**

Religion - History, Meaning and definition; Theories and Forms of Religion - Animism, Animatism, Fetishism, Ancestor Worship, Nature Worship, Zoomorphism, Anthropomorphism, Totemism, Polytheism and Monotheism; Oral Religion and Religion with books. Concept of Magic: Meaning and definitions: Elements of Magic; Forms and Types of Magic. Science-Meaning and definition Elements and Features; Relevance of Science. Relationship between Religion, Magic and Science.

Economic Organisation-Meaning and definition; Key Concepts-Production. Distribution, Redistribution and Consumption; Concept of Property and Wealth; Division of labour; Types of Traditional Economic Organizations - Hunting and Gathering, Fishing, Shifting Cultivation, Pastoralism, Agriculture; Forms of Exchanges - Ceremonial, Ritual; Reciprocity, Barter. Trade, Business etc.

Political Organisation - Meaning and Definitions; Concept of Power, Leadership and Authority; Law, Conflicts and Social Control; Concept of Crime and Punishment; Typology of Political Systems -Band, Chiefdom, Big-man, Tribe, State.

#### **Unit V: Application and Practicing Anthropology (15 Questions)**

Applied Anthropology - Definition and Scope; Application-Teaching, Research, Administration. Governance, Planning and Development: Social Engineering and Social Doctor: Action, Advocacy and Public Anthropology; Utility in various other fields-Global, National, Local, and Domestic.

Research - Meaning, Definition, Objectives and Characteristics; Significance of research: Scientific Research; Qualitative and Quantitative Research; Research Methodology-Methods, Techniques, Tools, and Instruments; Fieldwork and Ethnography, Types of Research; Pilot study and Research Design: Steps involved in Research process. Practicing Anthropology-Applied, Advocacy, Action and Public Anthropology.

#### **Unit VI: Pre-Historic and Early Historic India (20 Questions)**

Geographical features of India and its impact -Sources- Pre-historic culture: Paleolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic cultures - sites-Indus Valley Civilization-Vedic age-Society and Culture-Pre-Mauryan India: Mahajanapadas - Rise of Maghada-Jainism and Buddhism-Alexander Invasion and its impact -The Mauryan Empire: Ashoka's Dhamma- Edicts of Ashoka- Administration- Art and Architecture-Kushans: Kanishka-Gandhara Art -The Satavahanas-The Guptas-Golden Age-The Pushyabhutis-Harsha Vardhana.

#### **Unit VII: Ancient and Medieval Tamil Culture (20 Questions)**

Sources: Archaeological and Literary-Sangam Age:-Polity and Society-Literature-Foreign Trade-The Kalabharas-The Pallavas-Contribution to Art and Architecture-Rock Cut Temples and Structural Temples-Early Pandyas-Art and Architecture-The Imperial Cholas:-Administration-Religion and Culture-Contribution to Art and Architecture-The Second Pandyan Kingdom-Religion and Culture-Spread of Tamil Culture Abroad.

## **Unit VIII: Political, Social and Cultural Developments in Medieval India (20 Questions)**

Arab conquest of Sindh-Turkish Invasions: Muhammed of Ghazni-Muhammed of Ghor-Delhi Sultanate: Qutb-ud-din-Aibek-Iltutmish-Balban-Ala-ud-din Khalji-Administration-Muhammed-bin-Tughlaq-Firoz Tughlaq-Lodi Dynasty-Social and Religious condition under the Sultans-Art and Architecture of the Delhi Sultanate-Medieval Deccan:-Bhamini Kingdom-Vijayanagar Empire-Krishna Devaraya-Social and Cultural contribution of Vijayanagar-Art and Architecture-The Mughals:Babur-Humayun-Sher Shah-Administration-Akbar-Jahangir-Shah Jahan-Aurangzeb-Contribution of Mughals to Art and Architecture-Marathas:-Shivaji-Maratha Administration-The Sikhs-Bhakthi Movement

## **Unit IX: History of Modern India (20 Questions)**

i) Advent of Europeans-Anglo-French Rivalry-Robert Clive to Dalhousie-Reforms and Administration-Early Resistance to the British:-Poligar uprising-Puli Tevan-Veera Pandiya Kattabomman-South Indian Rebellion-Marudu Brothers-Velu Nachiyar-Vellore Mutiny-Uprisings in North-Sepoy Mutiny-Results-Queen's Proclamation-Causes for the birth of Nationalism-Socio-religious Reform movements-Indian National Congress-Early Phase-(1885-1916)-Moderates and Extremists-Gandhian Era (1915-1948)-Jallianwala Bagh Massacre-Non-Co-operation Movement and Khilafat-Swarajist-Civil Disobedience Movement-Revolutionary Movements-Indian National Army-Subash Chandra Bose-Quit India Movement-Indian Independence

ii.) Social Reforms Movements in Tamil Nadu - Role of Tamil Nadu in Freedom Struggle-Justice Party- Periyar E.V.Ramasamy - Temple Entry Movement - Devadasi Abolition – Upper Cloth Agitation

## **Unit X: Post- Independence India (20 Questions)**

i) Making of Indian Constitution - Integration of Indian States-States Reorganisation-Planning Commission-Jawaharlal Nehru-India's Foreign Policy-Lal Bahadur Shastri-Indira Gandhi-Morarji Desai-Rajiv Gandhi-P.V. Narasimha Rao-Atal Bihari Vajpayee

ii) Tamil Nadu since 1947-Congress Governments – Kamaraj - Dravidian Parties-Social Welfare schemes since 1968.

Dated: 14.04.2026