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DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ARTS.

TAMIL.

Scheme of Examination.

The Examination in Tamil offered as a subject for the General Arts Degree Examination shall consist of three papers of three hours each as follows:-

Tamil I (TG 1) : History of Tamil Language and Grammatical Traditions.

Tamil II (TG 2) : Prescribed Texts with Special Reference to Growth of Literature.

Tamil III (TG 3) : History of Tamil Literature from the Chōla Period to Modern Times and Theory of Literature.

Tamil I (TG 1) : History of Tamil Language and Grammatical Traditions.

This Paper will consist of questions on the evolution and growth of the Tamil Language as reflected in literary works, grammatical texts and inscriptions. The study of the development of the Tamil Language shall include the application of the principles and techniques of historical linguistics for an understanding of the phonology, morphology, syntax and semantics of the Tamil language with special reference to linguistic changes, borrowings and other significant features.

Candidates should have sufficient knowledge of the grammatical theories in Tamil. A critical study of the changes in the language and traditions reflected in such grammatical works as Tolkaṭṭiyam, Viracoliyam, Nannūl and Illakkana Vilakkam will form an integral part of this paper.

A knowledge of the evolution of the Tamil script and an understanding of the historical linguistic value of inscriptions are deemed necessary.

Tamil II (TG 2): Prescribed Texts with Special Reference to  
Growth of Literature.

This paper will consist of questions on the prescribed texts with emphasis on the development of Tamil literature. The prescribed texts serve to illustrate the main trends of development. The texts should be studied in the context of the periods in which they arose, with particular attention to their themes, ideas, style and other characteristics, their diffusion and diverse growth. A good knowledge of the particular periods of Tamil literature will be essential.

Students should be able to render passages from prescribed texts into modern prose and also be able to answer questions based on the growth of literature as evidenced by the prescribed texts.

Tamil III (TG 3) : History of Tamil Literature from the Chola Period  
to Modern Times and Theory of Literature.

The development of Tamil literature and its main trends of evolution from the beginning of the Chola period to modern times will form part of this paper. A good knowledge of the socio economic background of the different epochs, development of forms and genres and chronological problems are important in this paper. Candidates are expected to demarcate the style, ideas, themes, qualities and other characteristics of particular periods of literature.

Special attention should be given to the origin and development of the modern movement and the evolution of the Tamil Prose.

The study of the theory of literature will form an integral part of this paper. The study of the literary theories found in early literary and grammatical works, medieval commentaries and modern works in Tamil, comparative study of the important theories of literature in the West, history of literary criticism in Tamil, major critical approaches to literature and fundamental concepts in relation to literature should be given special attention in the study of the theory of literature.