

Malayalam Literature — Optional Syllabus

UPSC Civil Services (Main) Examination

The Malayalam language and its literature — history, criticism and prescribed texts.

Paper I	250 marks	3 hours
Paper II	250 marks	3 hours
Optional total	500 marks	Counts toward the Mains merit

Paper I syllabus 250 marks · 3 hours

(Answers must be written in Malayalam)

Section A: 1— Early phase of Malayalam Language

- 1.1 Various theories : Origin from proto Dravidian, Tamil, Sanskrit.
- 1.2 Relation between Tamil and Malayalam : Six nayas of A. R. Rajarajavarma.
- 1.3 Pattu School—Definition, Ramacharitam, later pattu works—Niranam works and Krishnagatha.

Section A: 2— Linguistic features of

- 2.1 Manipravalam—definition. Language of early manipravala works—Champu, Sandesakavya, Chandrotsava, minor works. Later manipravala works—medieval Champu and Attakkatha.
- 2.2 Folklore—Southern and Northern ballads, Mappila songs.
- 2.3 Early Malayalam Prose—Bhashakautaliyam, Brahmandapuram, Attaprakaram, Kramadipika and Nambiantamil.

Section A: 3— Standardisation of Malayalam

- 3.1 Peculiarities of the language of Pana, Kilippattu and Tullal.
- 3.2 Contributions of indigenous and European missionaries to Malayalam.
- 3.3 Characteristics of contemporary Malayalam; Malayalam as administrative language. Language of scientific and technical literature—media language.

Section B: 4— Ancient and Medieval Literature

- 4.1 Pattu—Ramacharitam, Niranam Works and Krishnagatha.
- 4.2 Manipravalam—early and medieval manipravala works including attakkatha and champu.
- 4.3 Folk Literature.
- 4.4 Kilippattu, Tullal and Mahakavya.

Section B: 5— Modern Literature—Poetry

- 5.1 Venmani poets and contemporaries.
- 5.2 The advent of Romanticism—Poetry of Kavitraya i.e., Asan, Ulloor and Vallathol.
- 5.3 Poetry after Kavitraya.
- 5.4 Modernism in Malayalam Poetry.

Section B: 6— Modern Literature—Prose

- 6.1 Drama.
- 6.2 Novel.
- 6.3 Short story.
- 6.4 Biography, travelogue, essay and criticism.

Paper II syllabus 250 marks · 3 hours

(Answers must be written in Malayalam) This paper will require first hand reading of the texts prescribed and is designed to test the candidate's critical ability.

Section A — Unit 1

- 1.1 Ramacharitam—Patalam 1.
- 1.2 Kannassaramayanam—Balakandam first 25 stanzas.
- 1.3 Unnunilisandesam—Purvabhagam 25 slokas including Prastavana.
- 1.4 Mahabharatham Kilippattu—Bhishmaparvam.

Section A — Unit 2

- 2.1 Kumaran Asan—Chintavisthayaya Sita.
- 2.2 Vailoppilli—Kutiyozhikkal.
- 2.3 G. Sankara Kurup—Perunthachan.
- 2.4 N. V. Krishna Variar—Tivandiyile pattu.

Section A — Unit 3

- 3.1 O. N. V.—Bhumikkoru Charamagitam.
- 3.2 Ayyappa Panicker—Kurukshestram.
- 3.3 Akkittam—Pandatha Messanthi.
- 3.4 Attur Ravivarma—Megharupan.

Section B — Unit 4

- 4.1 O. Chanthu Menon—Indulekha.
- 4.2 Thakazhy—Chemmin.
- 4.3 O. V. Vijayan—Khasakkinte Ithihasam.

Section B — Unit 5

- 5.1 M. T. Vasudevan Nair—Vanaprastham (Collection). 5.2 N. S. Madhavan—Higvitta (Collection). 5.3 C. J. Thomas—1128-il Crime 27.

Section B — Unit 6

- 6.1 Kuttikrishna Marar—Bharataparyatanam.
- 6.2 M. K. Sanu—Nakshatrangalute Snehabhajanam.
- 6.3 V. T. Bhattathirippad—Kannirum Kinavum.

Syllabus as per the official UPSC Civil Services (Main) Examination notification. Study notes for this optional are being added on RaahUPSC — raahupsc.com.