

CHENNAI PORT AUTHORITY

COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION FOR THE POST OF LAW OFFICER GRADE-I

1. QUESTIONS RELATING TO SPECIALISATION

A. Jurisprudence

Schools of Jurisprudence:

- Natural Law School: Cicero, Grotius, Finnis
- Analytical Positivism: Bentham, Austin, Kelsen, Hart
- Historical School: Savigny, Maine
- Sociological Jurisprudence: Ihering, Pound, Duguit
- Realist School: Holmes, Frank, Llewellyn

Fundamental Legal Concepts:

- Concept and definition of law
- Rights and duties: Hohfeld's analysis
- Legal personality: Natural and artificial persons
- Ownership and possession: Salmond's theory
- Title and its modes of acquisition
- Liability: Civil and criminal

Sources of Law:

- Legislation: Supreme and subordinate

- Precedent: Doctrine of stare decisis
- Custom: Legal and conventional
- Justice, equity, and good conscience

Administration of Justice:

- Theories of justice
- Classification of laws
- International law and municipal law

B. Constitutional Law

Foundational Framework:

- Historical background of Indian Constitution
- Preamble: Objectives and philosophy
- Salient features of the Constitution

Fundamental Rights (Part III, Articles 12-35):

- Right to Equality (Articles 14-18)
- Right to Freedom (Articles 19-22)
- Right against Exploitation (Articles 23-24)
- Right to Freedom of Religion (Articles 25-28)
- Cultural and Educational Rights (Articles 29-30)
- Right to Constitutional Remedies (Article 32)
- Writs: Habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, certiorari, quo warranto

Directive Principles and Fundamental Duties:

- Directive Principles of State Policy (Articles 36-51)
- Fundamental Duties (Article 51A)
- Relationship between Fundamental Rights and DPSPs

Union and State Governments:

- Union Executive: President, Vice President, Prime Minister, Council of Ministers
- State Executive: Governor, Chief Minister, Council of Ministers
- Parliament and State Legislatures: Composition, powers, procedures
- Legislative process and types of bills

Judiciary:

- Supreme Court: Composition, jurisdiction, powers
- High Courts: Jurisdiction and powers
- Subordinate courts
- Independence of judiciary
- Public Interest Litigation (PIL)

Constitutional Amendments and Doctrines:

- Amendment procedure (Article 368)
- Basic structure doctrine: Kesavananda Bharati case
- Judicial review of legislation

Federal Structure:

- Distribution of legislative powers (Union, State, Concurrent Lists)
- Centre-State relations
- Inter-State relations
- Emergency provisions (Articles 352, 356, 360)

Constitutional Bodies:

- Election Commission
- Comptroller and Auditor General
- Union Public Service Commission
- State Public Service Commissions
- Finance Commission

C. Law of Contract and Special Contracts

Indian Contract Act, 1872:

Formation of Contract:

- Definition and essential elements of contract
- Proposal/Offer and acceptance
- Consideration: Definition, rules, exceptions
- Capacity to contract: Minors, persons of unsound mind
- Free consent: Coercion, undue influence, fraud, misrepresentation, mistake
- Legality of object and consideration
- Void, voidable, illegal, and unenforceable agreements

Performance and Discharge:

- Performance: Who must perform, time and place
- Discharge: Performance, mutual agreement, impossibility, breach
- Consequences of breach
- Remedies: Damages, specific performance, injunction
- Quasi-contracts

Specific Contracts:

- Indemnity and guarantee (Sections 124-147)
- Bailment and pledge (Sections 148-181)
- Agency (Sections 182-238)

Sale of Goods Act, 1930:

- Contract of sale vs. agreement to sell
- Conditions and warranties
- Doctrine of caveat emptor
- Transfer of property in goods
- Rights of unpaid seller
- Breach and remedies

Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881:

- Promissory notes, bills of exchange, cheques
- Parties to negotiable instruments
- Negotiation and endorsement
- Presentment, dishonour, and notice
- Offences: Section 138 (dishonour of cheque)
- Holder and holder in due course

Partnership Act, 1932:

- Nature of partnership
- Rights and duties of partners
- Registration of firms
- Dissolution of partnership

D. Law of Torts and Motor Vehicle Act

General Principles of Tort:

- Nature and definition of tort
- Essentials: Wrongful act, legal damage, legal remedy
- Distinction between tort, crime, and breach of contract
- Pigeon hole theory vs. principle-based approach

Specific Torts:

- Negligence: Duty, breach, causation, damages
- Nuisance: Public and private
- Defamation: Libel and slander
- Trespass: To person, land, and goods
- Assault, battery, and false imprisonment

Liability Principles:

- Strict liability: Rylands v. Fletcher
- Absolute liability: M.C. Mehta v. Union of India

- Vicarious liability
- Joint tortfeasors

General Defenses:

- Volenti non fit injuria
- Act of God
- Inevitable accident
- Necessity
- Private defense
- Statutory authority

Motor Vehicles Act, 1988:

- Registration and licensing
- Insurance: Third-party and comprehensive
- Liability without fault
- Motor Accidents Claims Tribunal (MACT)
- Procedure for claiming compensation
- Computation of compensation: Multiplier method

Consumer Protection Act, 2019:

- Consumer rights and responsibilities
- Defect and deficiency in goods and services
- Unfair trade practices
- Consumer disputes redressal mechanism
- District, State, and National Commissions
- E-commerce regulations

E. Criminal Law

Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (BNS) / Indian Penal Code, 1860:

General Principles:

- Definition and classification of offences

- Mens rea and actus reus
- Motive and intention
- General exceptions (Sections 14-42 BNS / Sections 76-106 IPC)
- Right of private defense

Specific Offences:

- Offences against the State
- Offences against public tranquility
- Offences by or relating to public servants
- Offences affecting human body: Murder, culpable homicide, hurt
- Offences against property: Theft, extortion, robbery, dacoity
- Criminal breach of trust and cheating
- Forgery and counterfeiting
- Defamation
- Offences against women: Sexual offences, dowry death, cruelty

Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012:

- Definition of child
- Sexual offences against children
- Reporting and procedure
- Special courts

F. Civil Procedure Code, 1908

Jurisdiction and Courts:

- Jurisdiction: Territorial, pecuniary, subject matter
- Res judicata (Section 11)
- Res sub judice (Section 10)

Suits and Parties:

- Institution and framing of suits
- Parties: Necessary, proper, joinder
- Plaint and written statement
- Verification of pleadings

Interim Remedies:

- Temporary injunctions (Order XXXIX)
- Attachment before judgment
- Appointment of receiver

Trial and Judgment:

- Issues: Framing and trial
- Examination of witnesses
- Production of documents
- Judgment and decree
- Costs

Appeals, Review, and Revision:

- Appeals: First and second appeal
- Review of judgment
- Revision

Execution:

- Modes of execution
- Execution against property
- Arrest and detention

Important Orders:

- Order VI (Pleadings)
- Order VII (Plaint)
- Order VIII (Written Statement)
- Order XXI (Execution)
- Order XXXIX (Temporary Injunctions)
- Order XLI (Appeals)

G. Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 / Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023

Constitution of Criminal Courts:

- Hierarchy and powers of criminal courts
- Territorial and pecuniary jurisdiction

Powers of Police:

- First Information Report (FIR)
- Investigation powers
- Arrest: With and without warrant
- Search and seizure
- Medical examination

Classification of Offences:

- Cognizable and non-cognizable
- Bailable and non-bailable
- Compoundable and non-compoundable

Process for Accused:

- Summons and warrants
- Bail and anticipatory bail (Sections 436-439, Section 438)
- Bonds and sureties

Trial Procedures:

- Charge: Framing and contents
- Summary trial
- Trial before Magistrate
- Trial before Sessions Court
- Examination of accused (Section 313)
- Plea bargaining

Appeals and Revisions:

- Appeals from Magistrate and Sessions Court
- Revision and reference
- Inherent powers of High Court (Section 482)

Miscellaneous Provisions:

- Maintenance of wives, children, and parents (Section 125)
- Security for keeping peace
- Probation of Offenders Act, 1958

H. Law of Evidence

Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 / Indian Evidence Act, 1872:

Relevancy of Facts:

- Facts in issue and relevant facts
- Admissions and confessions
- Dying declarations
- Motive, preparation, and conduct
- Res gestae

Documentary Evidence:

- Primary and secondary evidence
- Public and private documents
- Proof and presumptions regarding documents
- Electronic evidence (Section 65B)

Oral Evidence:

- Examination-in-chief, cross, and re-examination
- Hostile witnesses
- Leading questions

Burden of Proof:

- Burden of proof and standard of proof
- Presumptions: Of fact and of law

Opinions and Expert Evidence:

- Expert opinion
- Handwriting and fingerprint experts
- Medical evidence

Competency and Privilege:

- Who may testify
- Privileged communications
- Spousal privilege

I. Property Law

Transfer of Property Act, 1882:

- Transfer of property: General principles
- Doctrine of lis pendens
- Part performance
- Sale: Conditions and warranties
- Mortgage: Types and rights
- Lease: Lessor and lessee rights
- Gift: Essentials and conditions
- Exchange and actionable claims

Easements Act, 1882:

- Nature of easements
- Acquisition and extinguishment

Registration Act, 1908:

- Compulsory and optional registration
- Procedure for registration
- Effects of non-registration
- Time limits

Limitation Act, 1963:

- Limitation periods for suits, appeals, applications
- Computation of period
- Acknowledgment and part payment
- Condonation of delay
- Extension and exclusion of time

Specific Relief Act, 1963 (as amended 2018):

- Specific performance of contracts
- Rectification and rescission
- Cancellation and declaratory decrees
- Injunctions: Temporary and perpetual

J. Labour and Industrial Laws

Code on Wages, 2019:

- Consolidates: Payment of Wages Act, Minimum Wages Act, Payment of Bonus Act, Equal Remuneration Act
- Definition of wages and wage period
- National floor wage and minimum wages
- Payment of wages and bonus
- Timely payment provisions
- Claims and penalties

Industrial Relations Code, 2020:

- Consolidates: Trade Unions Act, Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, Industrial Disputes Act
- Registration and recognition of trade unions
- Standing orders for industrial establishments
- Conditions for strikes and lock-outs
- Lay-off, retrenchment, and closure provisions
- Dispute resolution machinery
- Unfair labour practices

Code on Social Security, 2020:

- Consolidates: EPF Act, ESI Act, Gratuity Act, Maternity Benefit Act, and others
- Provident fund and pension schemes
- Employees' State Insurance
- Gratuity payment
- Maternity and other benefits
- Social security for gig workers and platform workers
- Aggregators and social security
- Cess-based schemes

Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020:

- Consolidates: Factories Act, Mines Act, Dock Workers Act, Contract Labour Act, and others
- Health, safety, and welfare in workplaces
- Working conditions and environment
- Contract labour regulation
- Inter-state migrant workers
- Annual leave and working hours
- Employment of women and young persons

Special Labour Legislation (Not Replaced by Codes):

Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (POSH Act):

- Definition of sexual harassment
- Internal Complaints Committee (ICC)
- Inquiry procedure and time limits
- Duties of employers
- Penalties for non-compliance

Tamil Nadu Labour Laws:

- Tamil Nadu Shops and Establishments Act, 1947 (as amended)
- Tamil Nadu Factories Rules, 1950

Port-Specific Labour Laws:

- Dock Workers (Safety, Health and Welfare) Act, 1986
- Dock Workers (Safety, Health and Welfare) Regulations, 1990
- Application to port and dock workers
- Safety standards in dock operations

K. Administrative Law

Principles and Concepts:

- Definition and scope of administrative law
- Separation of powers
- Rule of law
- Administrative discretion
- Delegated legislation

Principles of Natural Justice:

- Audi alteram partem (right to be heard)
- Nemo judex in causa sua (rule against bias)
- Reasoned decisions
- Exceptions and exclusions

Judicial Review:

- Grounds: Illegality, irrationality, procedural impropriety
- Scope and limitations
- Writs under Articles 32 and 226
- Tribunals and judicial review

Tribunals:

- Administrative Tribunals (Article 323A, 323B)
- Central Administrative Tribunal
- Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021

Right to Information Act, 2005:

- Right to information and exemptions
- Public Information Officer
- Information Commissions
- Procedure and appeals

Lokpal and Lokayuktas:

- Composition and jurisdiction
- Powers and procedure

L. Company Law

Companies Act, 2013:

Incorporation:

- Types of companies
- Memorandum and Articles of Association
- Doctrine of ultra vires
- Lifting of corporate veil

Share Capital:

- Issue and types of shares
- Share certificates and transfer

Management:

- Directors: Appointment, powers, duties
- Board meetings and resolutions
- Key Managerial Personnel

Meetings:

- General meetings: AGM and EGM
- Resolutions: Ordinary and special
- Notice and quorum

Accounts and Audit:

- Financial statements
- Appointment of auditors

Winding Up:

- Modes of winding up
- Liquidation process

National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT):

- Jurisdiction and powers

M. Intellectual Property Rights**Copyright Act, 1957:**

- Works protected

- Ownership and assignment
- Infringement and remedies
- Fair dealing

Trademarks Act, 1999:

- Registration and protection
- Infringement and passing off
- Well-known marks

Patents Act, 1970:

- Patentability criteria
- Procedure for grant
- Infringement and remedies

Designs Act, 2000:

- Registration of designs

Geographical Indications Act, 1999:

- Registration and protection

N. Environmental Law**Environment (Protection) Act, 1986:**

- Powers of Central Government
- Environmental standards

Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974:

- Pollution Control Boards
- Consent mechanism

Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981:

- Air quality standards
- Offences and penalties

Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:

- Protection of wild animals and plants

- Prohibited activities

Forest Conservation Act, 1980:

- Restriction on forest land diversion

National Green Tribunal Act, 2010:

- Composition and jurisdiction
- Environmental compensation

Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 2019:

- CRZ categories
- Permissible and prohibited activities
- Relevance to port development

O. Law of Taxation

Income Tax Act, 1961 (Basics):

- Residential status
- Heads of income
- Tax deduction at source (TDS)
- Assessment and appeals

Goods and Services Tax (GST), 2017:

- Central GST and State GST
- Input Tax Credit
- Returns and compliance
- GST applicable to port services

Customs Act, 1962:

- Import and export procedures
- Customs duties
- Valuation of goods
- Warehousing
- Special Economic Zones

P. Arbitration and Alternative Dispute Resolution

Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996:

- Arbitration agreement
- Appointment of arbitrators
- Arbitral proceedings
- Arbitral award
- Grounds for setting aside award
- Enforcement of awards
- International commercial arbitration

Mediation and Conciliation:

- Process and advantages
- Pre-litigation mediation

Lok Adalat:

- Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987
- Jurisdiction and procedure

Negotiation:

- Principles and strategies

Q. Information Technology and Cyber Laws

Information Technology Act, 2000 (as amended 2008):

- Legal recognition of electronic records and digital signatures
- Electronic governance
- Cyber crimes: Hacking, identity theft, phishing
- Offences and penalties
- Intermediary liability

Data Protection:

- Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 (if notified)
- Privacy principles

R. Land Laws

Land Acquisition:

- Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013
- Public purpose and consent
- Compensation principles
- Rehabilitation and resettlement

Tamil Nadu Land Laws:

- Tamil Nadu Land Reforms (Fixation of Ceiling on Land) Act, 1961
- Tamil Nadu Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1975
- Tamil Nadu Land Encroachment Act, 1905
- Tamil Nadu Highways Act, 2001

S. Service Law (Basics)

Constitutional Provisions:

- Articles 309-311: Services
- Articles 14, 16: Equality and reservation

Service Jurisprudence:

- Recruitment and appointment
- Probation and confirmation
- Promotion and seniority
- Disciplinary proceedings
- Principles of natural justice in service matters
- Removal, dismissal, and termination

Central Administrative Tribunal:

- Jurisdiction over service matters
- Powers and procedure

T. Banking and Insolvency Laws (Basics)

Banking Regulation Act, 1949:

- Regulation of banking companies

Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934:

- Powers and functions of RBI

SARFAESI Act, 2002:

- Securitization and asset reconstruction
- Enforcement of security

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016:

- Corporate insolvency resolution
- Liquidation process
- National Company Law Tribunal

Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002:

- Money laundering offences
- Attachment and confiscation

U. Economic Offences

Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (as amended 2018):

- Offences by public servants
- Bribery and criminal misconduct

Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Amendment Act, 2016:

- Prohibition of benami transactions

Companies Act Offences:

- Fraud and misrepresentation
- Penalties under Companies Act

V. Laws Related to Women and Children

Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956:

- Prevention of trafficking

Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961:

- Prohibition of dowry

Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005:

- Definition of domestic violence
- Protection orders

Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015:

- Care and protection of children
- Juvenile Justice Boards

W. Laws Applicable to Maritime Sector and Ports

Port Administration:

Major Port Authorities Act, 2021:

- Constitution of Port Authorities (replaces Major Port Trusts Act, 1963)
- Board composition and powers
- Administration and management
- Financial autonomy
- Tariff fixation
- Applicable to Chennai Port Authority

Indian Ports Act, 1908:

- Port conservancy
- Harbour master powers
- Regulation of vessels in port

Shipping Laws:

Merchant Shipping Act, 1958:

- Registration of ships

- Certificates and safety
- Crew and employment
- Carriage of goods and passengers
- Maritime liens
- Limitation of liability

Carriage of Goods by Sea Act, 1925:

- Bills of lading
- Carrier's liability
- Exceptions and limitations
- Hague Rules

Multimodal Transportation of Goods Act, 1993:

- Multimodal transport operators
- Liability and compensation

Maritime Safety and Security:

International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code:

- Port facility security
- Security assessments and plans

International Safety Management (ISM) Code:

- Safety management systems

Maritime Zones Act, 1976:

- Territorial waters
- Contiguous zone
- Exclusive economic zone
- Continental shelf

Dock Workers (Safety, Health and Welfare) Act, 1986:

- Safety standards in dock operations
- Health and welfare provisions
- Inspections and enforcement

Dock Workers (Safety, Health and Welfare) Regulations, 1990:

- Detailed safety regulations
- Lifting appliances and cargo handling
- Protective equipment

Customs and Trade:

Customs Act, 1962 (Port-related provisions):

- Import/export through ports
- Customs clearance procedures
- Warehousing and trans-shipment
- SEZ operations in ports

Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992:

- Export-Import Policy
- Restrictions and prohibitions

Maritime Disputes:

Admiralty (Jurisdiction and Settlement of Maritime Claims) Act, 2017:

- Admiralty jurisdiction of High Courts
- Maritime liens and claims
- Ship arrest procedures
- Maritime claims and remedies

International Conventions (Basic Knowledge):

- UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea)
- SOLAS (Safety of Life at Sea)
- MARPOL (Prevention of Pollution from Ships)
- Maritime Labour Convention, 2006

Environmental Regulations for Ports:

- Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 2019
- Ballast Water Management
- Oil pollution prevention
- Environmental clearances for port projects

X. Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility

Bar Council of India Rules:

- Advocates Act, 1961
- Professional ethics and duties
- Misconduct and disciplinary proceedings

Court Etiquette and Practice:

- Conduct in court
- Professional relationships

2. TEST OF REASONING

Syllabus pattern equivalent to SBI PO level

- Logical and analytical reasoning
- Seating arrangements (linear, circular)
- Syllogisms
- Blood relations
- Coding-decoding
- Direction sense
- Data sufficiency
- Puzzles and pattern recognition
- Statement and conclusions/assumptions
- Critical reasoning

3. QUANTITATIVE APTITUDE

- Number systems and simplification
- Percentages, ratio, and proportion
- Profit and loss
- Simple and compound interest
- Time and work

- Time, speed, and distance
- Averages and mixtures
- Algebra: Linear and quadratic equations
- Data interpretation (tables, graphs, charts)
- Probability and permutations-combinations

4. GENERAL AWARENESS

Current Affairs:

- National and international events (last 6-12 months)
- Awards and honours
- Sports and important events

Indian Polity:

- Constitutional provisions
- Government schemes and policies
- Important bills and legislation

Indian Economy:

- Economic policies and planning
- Banking and finance
- Budget highlights
- Economic indicators

Geography:

- Indian geography
- World geography basics
- Environmental issues

History:

- Modern Indian history
- Freedom movement
- Post-independence India

Science and Technology:

- Recent developments

- Space and defense technology

Ports and Maritime Sector:

- Major ports in India
- Chennai Port Authority: History, operations, facilities
- Sagarmala Project
- Maritime India Vision 2030
- Shipping industry developments
- Port infrastructure and logistics

Legal Developments:

- Recent Supreme Court judgments
- New legislations and amendments
- Law Commission reports
- Legal reforms

5. ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Reading Comprehension:

- Passage-based questions
- Inference and vocabulary

Grammar:

- Error detection and correction
- Sentence improvement
- Fill in the blanks
- Active-passive voice
- Direct-indirect speech
- Tenses and subject-verb agreement

Vocabulary:

- Synonyms and antonyms
- One-word substitution
- Idioms and phrases

Sentence Organization:

- Para jumbles
- Sentence rearrangement
- Cloze test