

MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
MIZORAM CIVIL SERVICES (COMBINED COMPETITIVE)
MAIN EXAMINATION, 2023

ENGLISH PAPER-I

Time Allowed : 3 hours

FM : 100

Marks for each question is indicated against it.

Attempt any 5 (five) questions taking not more than 3 (three) questions from each Part.

PART - A

1. Write Short Notes on *any two* of the following: **(2×10=20)**
- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| (a) Negative Capability | (b) Mock-Epic as a literary device |
| (c) Jacobean Drama | (d) Nature and Man in Romantic Poetry |
| (e) Early Victorians | |
2. *A Doll's House* revolves around a 19th century marriage, but throws great insights into ever relevant topics like gender roles, economic justice, love and deceit. Discuss. **(20)**
3. (a) How does *Paradise Lost* justify God's ways to man? **(20)**
- OR**
- (b) Discuss the salient features of metaphysical poetry with particular references to the following poems by John Donne - *Death be not proud*, *The Relic* and *On His Mistress going to bed*.
4. Write an essay on the major themes of Romantic Poetry with reference to the poetry of William Wordsworth. **(20)**

PART - B

5. Give a critical analysis of the following: **(20)**
- You get tired quickly, you forget easily,
You start talking to yourself,
You move your lips
And come on yourself in the mirror moving your lips.*
- I have a fair notion of how old age will be for me.
For a day or two every summer, for a week
I am old.
Wrinkled, shrunk like a peach stone
In the kernel of the luscious day.*
- A Ulysses who keeps drifting off,
Forgetting where he's going back to,
Why he's astray on the sea,
Whether the war in Troy is over or coming.
A Ulysses unlikely to kiss smoke from the chimneys
Of home.*

*Are you straightening your tie there
Or strangling yourself?*

*40 degrees in the sun. I go into the house
And, with an ultimate effort of memory, remember
My name.
Torrid weather is much the same as old age.
The same sensations.*

*You trip the rugs
You stumble over the slippers -
One of your nails has turned septic,
One of your teeth seems to be looser.*

*In the summer, we all come together.
We are all old,
Even the foetus in its mother's womb.*

OR

Here is an old man on the bed of death, harassed with helpless friends and waiting relatives. What a terrible sight it is, this thin frame with loosened and cracking flesh, this toothless mouth on a bloodless face, this tongue that can't speak, these eyes that can't see! To this pass youth has come, after all its hopes and trials; to this pass middle age after all its torment and its toil. To this pass health, strength and joyous rivalry; this arm once struck great blows and fought for victory in virile games. To this pass knowledge, science, wisdom. For seventy years this man with pain and effort gathered knowledge; his brain became the storehouse of varied experience, the centre of a thousand subtleties of thought and deed, his heart through suffering learned gentleness as his mind learned understanding; seventy years he grew from animal into man capable of seeking truth and creating beauty. But death is upon him, poisoning him, choking him, congealing his blood, gripping his heart, bursting his brain, rattling in his throat. Death wins.

6. Write an essay on *Gulliver's Travels* as a political satire. (20)
7. (a) Discuss George Elliot's *The Mill on the Floss* as an autobiographical novel. (20)

OR

- (b) Write a critical note on Jane Austen's use of irony in *Pride and Prejudice*.
8. (a) What is the significance of the title *Hard Times*? (20)

OR

- (b) "Twain ridicules the aristocratic characters in *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by portraying them as fraudulent, pretentious, overly sentimental, and violent." Discuss.