

MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
TECHNICAL COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR
PYSCHOLOGIST (CONTRACT) AND CASE WORKER
UNDER SOCIAL WELFARE & TRIBAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT,
GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM, JANUARY-2024

GENERAL ENGLISH

Time Allowed : 3 hours

FM : 100

SECTION - A

(34 Marks)

This Section should be answered only on the Answer Sheet provided.

Marks for each question is indicated against it.

Attempt all questions.

1. Write the Precis of the following passage, and give it a suitable title. (14)

Social media has become an integral part of modern life. Platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Tik Tok have revolutionized the way we connect, share information, and communicate with each other. While social media offers numerous benefits, it also poses challenges and raises important questions about its impact on society.

Social media has connected people across the globe, transcending geographical boundaries. This connectivity allows us to interact with individuals from diverse backgrounds, fostering cross-cultural understanding and global awareness. It also serves as a powerful tool for disseminating information and news rapidly. It has the potential to spread awareness about important issues, emergencies, and events in real-time. Further, social media platforms have played a pivotal role in various social and political movements, such as the Arab Spring and the Black Lives Matter movement. It provides a platform for advocacy, mobilization, and raising awareness about societal issues. It has also become a vital tool for businesses to reach their target audience, promote products and services, and engage with customers. It also offers a vast repository of educational resources, from online courses to informative content shared by experts. It has made learning more accessible and interactive.

Social media also has its drawbacks, one of the most significant being the erosion of personal privacy. Users often share sensitive information unknowingly, making them vulnerable to identity theft, cyberbullying, and data breaches. Social media addiction is also a real concern, with many individuals spending excessive amounts of time online. This addiction can lead to social isolation, decreased productivity, and adverse effects on mental health. The rapid spread of false information and fake news on social media platforms also has the potential to mislead and manipulate the masses. This misinformation can have serious consequences, especially during crises. Another drawback is that algorithms on social media platforms often curate content based on user preferences, leading to filter bubbles where individuals are exposed only to information that aligns with their existing beliefs, reinforcing polarization and limiting exposure to diverse perspectives.

Social media is a double-edged sword. It has revolutionized life as we know it, both in good and bad ways. To harness the positive aspects of social media while mitigating its negative effects, individuals, communities, and policymakers must work together. Responsible usage, media literacy, and regulations are essential to strike a balance between the benefits and drawbacks of social media in our ever-evolving digital society.

2. Write a letter to the Editor of your local newspaper about the importance of mental health awareness on the occasion of World Mental Health Day. (10)

3. Read the following passages and answer the questions.

(10)

The choices we make on a daily basis-wearing a seatbelt, lifting heavy objects correctly or purposely staying out of any dangerous situation-can either ensure our safety or bring about potentially harmful circumstances. You and I need to make a decision that we are going to get our lives in order. Exercising self-control, self-discipline and establishing boundaries and borders in our lives are some of the most important things we can do. A life without discipline is one that's filled with carelessness. We can think it's kind of exciting to live life on the edge. We like the image of "Yeah! That's me! Living on the edge! Woo-hoo!" It's become a popular way to look at life. But if you see, even highways have lines, which provide margins for our safety while we're driving. If we go over one side, we'll go into the ditch. If we cross over the line in the middle, we could get killed. And we like those lines because they help to keep us safe. Sometimes we don't even realize how lines help to keep us safe. I'm not proud of this, but for the first 20 years of my life at work, I ignored my limits. I felt horrible, physically, most of the time. I used to tell myself "I know I have limits and that I've reached them, but I'm going to ignore them and see if or how long I can get by with it." I ran to doctors, trying to make myself feel better through pills, vitamins, natural stuff and anything I could get my hands on. Some of the doctors would tell me, "It's just stress." That just made me mad. I thought stress meant you don't like what you do or can't handle life, and I love what I do. But I kept pushing myself, traveling, doing speaking engagements and so on - simply exhausting myself.

Finally, I understood I was living an unsustainable life and needed to make some changes in my outlook and lifestyle. You and I don't have to be like everyone else or keep up with anyone else, Each of us needs to be exactly the way we are, and we don't have to apologize for it. We're not all alike and we need to find a comfort zone in which we can enjoy our lives instead of making ourselves sick with an overload of stress and pressure.

- (i) The reason why living on the edge has been popular is because of the –
 - (a) constant need for something different.
 - (b) population being much younger
 - (c) exhausting efforts to make changes
 - (d) strong tendency to stay within our limits
- (ii) Which of the following will be the most appropriate title for the passage?
 - (a) Much too soon
 - (b) Enough is enough
 - (c) How much is too much?
 - (d) Have enough to do?
- (iii) The phrase 'potentially harmful circumstances' refers to circumstances that can
 - (a) certainly be dangerous
 - (b) be fairly dangerous
 - (c) be possibly dangerous
 - (d) seldom be dangerous
- (iv) Which of the following characteristics are apt about the writer in the following context- 'I know I have limits and that I've reached them, but I'm going to ignore them and see of or how long I can get by with it'.
 - (a) Indecisive and purposeless
 - (b) Spontaneous and patient
 - (c) Negligent and reckless
 - (d) Indecisive and spontaneous
- (v) The author attempts to _____ the readers through this write-up.
 - (a) rebuke
 - (b) question
 - (c) offer aid to
 - (d) offer advice to
- (vi) The author uses colloquial words such as 'yeah' and 'Woo-ho!'. Which of the following is not a colloquial word?
 - (a) hooked
 - (b) guy
 - (c) stuff
 - (d) stress
- (vii) What does the author mean when he says 'to get our lives in order'?
 - (a) To resume our lives
 - (b) To organize our lives
 - (c) To rebuild our lives
 - (d) To control our lives

9. Make haste, else you will miss the train.

- (a) Verb (b) Adverb
(c) Conjunction (d) Preposition

10. Oh no. here we go again!

- (a) Conjunction (b) Adjective
(c) Preposition (d) Interjection

Directions (Question Nos. 11 - 20) : Choose the correct form of the verbs in brackets to complete the following sentences:

11. It _____ (rain) when I woke up this morning.

- (a) Rained (b) Was raining
(c) rains (d) is raining

12. He thought that he could _____ (finish) the meal, but it was too heavy.

- (a) Finished (b) Finish
(c) had finished (d) finishes

13. My father _____ (go) for a walk every morning without fail.

- (a) Gone (b) Go
(c) goes (d) went

14. I _____ (cheer) for you among the crowd when you perform tonight.

- (a) Will be cheering (b) Will have cheered
(c) will cheer (d) will have been cheering

15. He _____ (leave) for the station by the time I remembered to call him.

- (a) Leaves (b) Had been leaving
(c) is leaving (d) had left

16. How I _____ (wish) that I have never met you!

- (a) Wished (b) Had wished
(c) wishes (d) wish

17. I _____ (practice) for three weeks now, but with very little progress.

- (a) Practiced (b) Have practiced
(c) have been practicing (d) am practicing

18. He _____ (disappoint) me greatly with his lack of interest this semester.

- (a) Disappoints (b) Is disappointing
(c) has disappointed (d) disappointed

19. I _____ (try) to keep an open mind, but your behavior has shocked me.

- (a) Try (b) Have tried
(c) tried (d) have been trying

20. You _____ (regret) not heeding my advice about your career.

- (a) Will regret (b) Will have regretted
(c) will be regretting (d) will have been regretting

Directions (Question Nos. 21 - 35) : Change the following sentences as directed.

21. Her hard work ensures that she will not be a failure. (to affirmative)
- (a) Her hard work ensures that she will be a failure
 - (b) Her bad work ensures that she will be a failure
 - (c) Her hard work ensures that she will be a success
 - (d) Her hard work ensures that she will be a non-failure
22. I wish that I would win a million dollars. (to Exclamatory)
- (a) Fie! That I may win a million dollars!
 - (b) Oh, that I may win a million dollars!
 - (c) Alas! I wish to win a million dollars
 - (d) What if I won a million dollars!
23. You are ordered to close the door immediately. (to Imperative)
- (a) You have been ordered to close the door immediately
 - (b) Close the door immediately, please
 - (c) Let us close the door
 - (d) Close the door immediately
24. I have called you here simply to scold you (to Interrogative)
- (a) Why did I call you here simply to scold you?
 - (b) Have I called you here simply to scold you?
 - (c) Why did I scold you?
 - (d) Did I call you here simply to scold you?
25. Thangi said, "Rama will see you tomorrow". (to Indirect)
- (a) Thangi said that Rama would see me the next day
 - (b) Thangi said that Rama will see me tomorrow
 - (c) Thangi said that Rama will be seeing me the next day
 - (d) Thangi said that Rama would see you tomorrow
26. Liani says that it had been raining the previous day. (to Direct)
- (a) Liani said, "It had been raining the previous day"
 - (b) Liani says, "It had been raining yesterday"
 - (c) Liani said, "It had been raining the previous day"
 - (d) Liani says, "It had rained yesterday"
27. Did I love you even at your darkest moments? (to Affirmative)
- (a) I have loved you even at your darkest moments
 - (b) I love you even at your darkest moments
 - (c) I am loving you even at your darkest moments
 - (d) I loved you even at your darkest moments
28. The Principal was looking for you yesterday (to Passive Voice)
- (a) You were looked for by the principal yesterday
 - (b) You have been looked for by the Principal yesterday
 - (c) You were looked by the Principal yesterday
 - (d) You were being looked for by the Principal yesterday
29. She has been sent a message by me. (to Active Voice)
- (a) I sent her a message
 - (b) A message was sent to her by me
 - (c) I am sending her a message
 - (d) I have sent her a message

30. He is too stupid to understand what I am saying (to Negative)
(a) He is not intelligent enough to understand what I am saying
(b) He is too stupid to understand what I am not saying
(c) He is too stupid to not understand what I am saying
(d) He is not wise to understand what I am saying
31. Please, do not abandon me (to Affirmative)
(a) You are ordered not to abandon me (b) May you not abandon me
(c) You are requested not to abandon me (d) May abandonment of me not be done by you
32. She said, "I need to see Tom now" (to Indirect Speech)
(a) She said that she had needed to Tom then (b) She said that she needed to see Tom then
(c) She said that she needs to see Tom Now (d) She said that she had needed to see Tom then
33. He said that he had been searching for those books since the previous year (to Direct Speech)
(a) He said, "I have been searching for these books since last year"
(b) He said, "I am searching for these books since last year"
(c) He said, "I searched for those books since the previous year"
(d) He says, "I have searched for those books since the previous year"
34. Sugar tastes sweet (to Passive Voice)
(a) Sugar is sweet when tasted (b) Sugar tastes sweet by me
(c) Sugar is tasted sweetly by him (d) Sweet is sugar
35. They are being looked after by the nurse. (to Active Voice)
(a) The nurse looked after them (b) The nurse has looked after them
(c) The nurse is looking after them (d) The nurse has been looking after them

Directions (Question Nos. 36-40) : Analyse the given sentences and choose the correct option:

36. He spoke in such a low voice that few could hear him.
(a) Adverb clause of reason (b) Adverb clause of result or consequence
(c) Adverb clause of supposition (d) Adverb clause of purpose
37. There was silence as the leader spoke.
(a) Adverb clause of time (b) Adverb clause of purpose
(c) Adverb clause of condition (d) Adverb clause of result
38. Few are better leaders than he.
(a) Adverb clause of reason (b) Adverb clause of condition
(b) Adverb clause of comparison (d) Adverb clause of result or consequence
39. He makes friends wherever he goes.
(a) Adverb clause of result or consequence (b) Adverb clause of time
(c) Adverb clause of comparison (d) Adverb clause of place
40. I am very pleased that you have passed.
(a) Adverb clause of result or consequence (b) Adverb clause of purpose
(c) Adverb clause of condition (d) Adverb clause of reason

Directions (Question Nos. 41 - 46) : Choose from the given options to replace the underlined word/phrase to make the sentence grammatically correct.

41. The invigilator advised us from copying or indulging in any other malpractices.
(a) against (b) upon
(c) about (d) No improvement
42. Without hard work, it will be difficult for him to catch up with the others.
(a) speed up (b) join up
(c) get in line (d) No improvement
43. Other countries have eradicated this disease ten years ago.
(a) eradicated (b) did eradicate
(c) had eradicated (d) No improvement
44. You have come here with a view to insult me.
(a) for insulting me (b) of insulting me
(c) to insulting me (d) No improvement
45. If you wrote to me earlier, I would have easily solved your problem.
(a) were writing (b) had written
(c) have written (d) No improvement
46. Can't you never understand what has been said?
(a) rather understand (b) ever understand
(c) at all understand (d) No improvement

Directions (Question Nos. 47 - 56) : In each of the following questions, the phrases/sentences are not in the correct order. Choose the correct combination to put them in the right order.

47. A study _____ future success.
A. concludes that B. commitment to future tasks
C. success increases D. and chances for
(a) DACB (b) BDAC
(c) ACBD (d) CBDA
48. Putting it another way _____ wins and losses.
A. what we see as our B. we are constantly resetting
C. our goals throughout our lives D. in response to
(a) BCDA (b) CABD
(c) ABDC (d) BDCA
49. There are _____ in the world.
A. more ants B. than
C. any other kind of D. Land animal
(a) CBAD (b) DBCA
(c) BCDA (d) ABCD

56. A. Mom was pleased to receive your wishes on her birthday
B. She has forgiven you and sends her blessings to you
C. Wishes are more powerful than anything in the world
D. Both of us had forgotten the day
E. It was your letter and the card which reminded us of it
- (a) DEABC (b) EADBC
(c) CBAED (d) ADECB

Directions (Question Nos. 57 - 61) : Choose the correct alternative which is closest in meaning to the given sentence.

57. One who attacks first.
(a) Aggressor (b) Autocrat
(c) Oppressor (d) Dictator
58. Things of same nature
(a) Ambiguous (b) Hypothesis
(c) Heterogenous (d) Homogenous
59. Morning prayer in church.
(a) Ritual (b) Matins
(c) Mass (d) Protocol
60. That which cannot be done without.
(a) Impracticable (b) Indispensable
(c) Irrevocable (d) Impossible
61. One who cannot be corrected.
(a) Incurable (b) Hardened
(c) Incurable (d) Unmanageable

Directions (Question Nos. 62 - 66) : Pick out the correct kind of phrase from the following sentences.

62. The gun went off with a loud report.
(a) Noun phrase (b) Adverb phrase
(c) Adjective phrase
63. Here is a page with no writing on it.
(a) Noun phrase (b) Adverb phrase
(c) Adjective phrase
64. He refuses to answer the question.
(a) Noun phrase (b) Adverb phrase
(c) Adjective phrase
65. A meadow covered with grass stretched before us.
(a) Noun phrase (b) Adverb phrase
(c) Adjective phrase
66. The shoe is pressing on my toe.
(a) Noun phrase (b) Adverb phrase
(c) Adjective phrase