

MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF
JR. GRADE OF MIZORAM HORTICULTURE SERVICE
UNDER HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT,
GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM. OCTOBER, 2023

GENERAL ENGLISH PAPER-I

Time Allowed : 3 hours

Full Marks : 100

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks for the questions.
Attempt all questions.*

1. Write an essay choosing one of the topics given below: (25)
- Horticulture and its role in the Indian Economy
 - Harmony in Diversity- Need of the hour
 - The Ideal Politician

2. Make a précis of the following in one-third of its original length. (15)

All of us are now aware of the threats facing the earth of the degradation that man is causing to his own environment. We know that the global temperature is rising, that the ozone layer is being disrupted, that the groundwater level is going down alarmingly. We also know that our air, water and soil are being increasingly polluted, that our forests are being steadily depleted. Our Earth is becoming more and more uninhabitable.

Why is this so? The most important reason is that our concept of development is unscientific and illogical. Our development has made life more complicated and difficult for us.

In fact, it is over-exploitation of our natural wealth that has resulted in the many unsolvable problems we now have, problems of pollution of air, water and soil.

The natural resources of our Earth are being exploited by the developed nations to such an extent that it becomes almost impossible for the rest of the world to meet even their basic needs. The developed nations do this for the sake of change and novelty and this craze has given rise to 'a throw away culture'. They throw away not only cups and plates, paper and clothes and foodstuffs, furniture and cars, but even their homes and old people. This attitude of the developed countries has wrought havoc not only to them, but to the poor, backward nations too; for this is the model of development the developed countries place before them.

Development does not mean piling up luxuries; development does not mean having more and more automobiles on your roads; development does not mean making air, water and soil more polluted; development does not mean more and bigger buildings. The mad rush to catch up with the artificial speed of high competition is not development.

3. Draft a Letter to the Editor of Vanglaini, Vanglaini drawing attention to the importance of horticulture and its role in protecting the environment. (15)

4. Choose the correct meaning of the idioms which are underlined in the sentence: (15×1=15)
- (a) The question was so difficult that I could not make head or tail of it.
(i) remember the beginning or end (ii) understand it
(iii) face it (iv) tolerate it
- (b) The Manipur issue is a burning question of the day
(i) dying out (ii) hurtful matter
(iii) widely debated issue (iv) irrelevant issue
- (c) The politician was able to sway the mob with his gift of the gab
(i) fluency of speech (ii) abundance of promises
(iii) political vision (iv) skill and bravery
- (d) The authorities took him to task for his negligence.
(i) forced him to resign (ii) suspended his assignment
(iii) reprimanded him (iv) gave him additional work
- (e) When the Police came, the miscreants took to their heels.
(i) were taken by surprise (ii) to run away
(iii) took off their shoes (iv) surrendered unconditionally
- (f) I always get cold feet in front of an audience
(i) run for life (ii) become rude
(iii) be afraid (iv) confident and strong
- (g) Today will be a red-letter day for all Indians.
(i) a colorful day (ii) fatal day
(iii) special and significant day (iv) a violent day
- (h) The students accused the authority of sitting on the fence.
(i) confused (ii) observant
(iii) hesitating between two options (iv) sitting idly
- (i) The convict made a clean breast of his involvement in the crime.
(i) Spoke honestly (ii) Took off his shirt
(iii) Denied the charge (iv) Refused to confess
- (j) We should always guard against our green-eyed friends.
(i) rich (ii) jealous
(iii) good-looking (iv) curious
- (k) Some people have the habit of working by fits and starts.
(i) very seriously (ii) excitedly
(iii) consistently (iv) intermittently
- (l) Regardless of what her parents said, she wanted to let her hair down that night.
(i) work till late (ii) really enjoy
(iii) wash her hair (iv) untie her hair
- (m) Most people live from hand to mouth these days because of inflation.
(i) lavishly (ii) happily
(iii) comfortably (iv) meagerly
- (n) After getting a severe scolding from his father, Mawia got down to business.
(i) started a business (ii) ended his business
(iii) began working seriously (iv) joined his father's business

- (o) Colleges have introduced NEP 2020 from this session and teething problems are expected.
- (i) difficulties at the start
 - (ii) difficulties at the end
 - (iii) difficulties all the time
 - (iv) difficulties in teaching

5. Expand the idea contained in *any three* of the following: (3×5=15)
- (a) Nothing is impossible to the willing mind.
 - (b) A Little Knowledge is a Dangerous Thing.
 - (c) Might is Right.
 - (d) Spare the rod and spoil the child.
 - (e) A man who never made a mistake, never made anything.

6. Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

There can be no greater example of mankind's creative genius, than for him to move off from his home planet, and extend life throughout the solar system, by creating new abodes for life. Today with an increasing population of more than six billion people and the fear of possible disaster, the need for an alternate home for mankind has become urgent. Mars stands alone as the one planet in our solar system-not including Earth-that might be able to support life as it has all of the ingredients necessary for life. Though the average surface temperature on Mars is frigid and it is a desolate lifeless planet, mars once had an atmosphere thick and warm enough to allow for the flow of liquid water on its surface.

If it is ever done at all, transforming a dry, desert-like Mars into a lush environment, where people, plants and other animals can survive, will be a huge undertaking that could take several decades or even centuries. Let us examine two methods that have been proposed. One method is placing large orbital mirrors that will reflect sunlight and heat onto the Mars surface. These mirrors would be directed at the polar caps of Mars and they would melt the ice. Over a period of many years, the rise in temperature would release greenhouse gases and heat up the planet.

Another option would be to set-up solar-powered, green house gas producing factories. These would imitate the natural process of plant photosynthesis, inhaling carbon dioxide and emitting oxygen. The Mars atmosphere would slowly be oxygenated to the point that people on Mars would need only a breathing apparatus.

While we may reach Mars this century, it would take several millennia to materialize the idea of transforming it into a planet on which plants and animals can flourish.

Questions:

- (a) Explain in your own words:
 - (i) creative genius (2×2=4)
 - (ii) lush environment
- (b) Why is there a need for an alternate home for humans? (3)
- (c) Describe in your own words how orbital mirrors can raise the temperature of Mars. (3)
- (d) What role would solar powered greenhouse factories play on Mars? (3)
- (e) Find words in the passage which are similar in meaning to:
 - (i) Home (2×1=2)
 - (ii) Frozen