

MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
TECHNICAL COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR RECRUITMENT TO
ASSISTANT ENGINEER (CIVIL) CONTRACT BASIS
UNDER TRADE AND COMMERCE DEPARTMENT, JULY 2016.

GENERAL ENGLISH

Time Allowed : 3 hours

Full Marks : 100

Attempt all questions.

1. Comprehension: Read the following passage carefully and answer the following questions:

The development and widespread use of computer technology and the internet have transformed how we communicate, how business is conducted, how information is dispersed, and how society is organised. Prior to approximately 1980, in-depth information about any one subject matter was attained through laborious research involving countless visits to libraries and via repeated interviews with persons of known reputation and reputable expertise. Now, a great deal of information is available at the click of a mouse button, all attainable from within the confines of one's own home or from the use of a computer in an office. Previous labor-intensive support jobs, such as loading and unpacking of trucks, luggage handling at airports, and food manufacturing, once performed by a large middle-class workforce, are now performed routinely by robots which are monitored by computer-controlled systems.

Our lives have been simplified by the advent of computer and internet technologies, but likewise these benefits which have been ushered in by the technology revolution have had an adverse affect on the core of our interpersonal-relationships. Mere communication is no longer via postal mail or face-to-face contact, but rather via electronic email, personal internet message boards, and by virtue of hand-held personal electronic assistants. Although computer technology has brought us to within a mouse-click of any sought-after piece of information, this technology boom has sequestered us to the confines of our computer desks and homes and has removed us away from those traditional settings where personal and communication skills are developed.

- (a) What is the author's primary purpose in writing this passage? (5)
- (b) Summarise in brief the author's attitude towards the advent of computer technology. (5)
- (c) What adverse affect does technological revolution have on human relationship? (5)
- (d) How does advances in computer technology effect communication? (5)

2. Précis: Re-write the following passage into $\frac{1}{3}$ of its length giving a suitable title: (20)

According to the myth the 'typical Australian' is a practical man, rough and ready in his manners and quick to decry any appearance of affectation in others. He is a great improviser, ever willing 'to have a go' at anything, but willing too to be content with a task done in a way that is 'near enough'. Though capable of great exertion in an emergency, he normally feels no impulse to work hard without good cause. He swears hard and consistently, gambles heavily and often, and drinks deeply on occasion. Though he is 'the world's best confidence man', he is usually taciturn rather than talkative, one who endures stoically rather than one who acts busily. He is a 'hard case', skeptical about the value of religion and of intellectual and cultural pursuits generally. He believes that Jack is not only as good as his master but, at least in principle, probably a good deal better, and so he is a great 'knocker' of eminent people unless, as in the case of his sporting heroes, they are distinguished by physical

prowess. He is a fiercely independent person who hates officiousness and authority, especially when these qualities are embodied in military officers and policemen. Yet he is very hospitable and, above all, will stick to his mates through thick and thin, even if he thinks they may be in the wrong. No epithet in his vocabulary is more completely damning than 'scab', unless it be 'pimp' used in its peculiarly Australasian slang meaning of 'informer'. He tends to be a rolling stone, highly suspect if he should chance to gather much moss.

3. Write an essay on *any one* the following topics: (20)

- (a) Sustainable Energy
- (b) Waste management system
- (c) Industries for State development

4. Choose the correct verb: (10)

- (a) I ___ watching TV when Paul and Simon arrived.
 - (i) was
 - (ii) am
 - (iii) were
- (b) Do you think he ___ what I said?
 - (i) understand
 - (ii) understanding
 - (iii) understood
- (c) She ___ to learn English in Malta next summer.
 - (i) hoping
 - (ii) hope
 - (iii) hopes
- (d) I don't think I've ever ___ on that sofa.
 - (i) sat
 - (ii) sitting
 - (iii) sit
- (e) Tom ___ tired.
 - (i) looking
 - (ii) look
 - (iii) looks
- (f) When I was young I wanted to ___ a vet.
 - (i) am
 - (ii) was
 - (iii) be
- (g) Did you used to ___ with dolls?
 - (i) play
 - (ii) played
 - (iii) playing
- (h) I've never ___ sushi before.
 - (i) eaten
 - (ii) ate
 - (iii) eat
- (i) The window was already ___ when I got here.
 - (i) broken
 - (ii) broke
 - (iii) break
- (j) Last night I ___ on the carpet and fell asleep.
 - (i) lay
 - (ii) lied
 - (iii) lie

5. Choose the *correct* definition for the following words:

(10x1=10)

- (a) Abridge
(i) To condense
(ii) To consent
(iii) To complain
- (b) Benevolent
(i) Brave
(ii) Kind hearted
(iii) Heavy hearted
- (c) Credulity
(i) Trust without seeing
(ii) Trust without knowing
(iii) Trust without proper evidence
- (d) Explicit
(i) Fully expressed
(ii) Fully export
(iii) Fully report
- (e) Potable
(i) Fit to drink
(ii) Fit to eat
(iii) Fit to taste
- (f) Venial
(i) A fault that may be punished
(ii) A fault that may be forgiven
(iii) A fault that may be excused
- (g) Dead Letter
(i) An unnamed letter
(ii) An unclaimed letter
(iii) An unstamped letter
- (h) Truism
(i) An often repeated thought
(ii) An often repeated word
(iii) An often repeated truth
- (i) Bellicose
(i) One who loves criticising others
(ii) One who is ambitious
(iii) One who is fond of fighting
- (j) Expatriate
(i) To send out of native country
(ii) To remove a tooth
(iii) To be a patriot

6. Make sentences with the following pairs of words to show their difference:

(10x1=10)

- (a) Accept / Except
(b) Meter / Metre
(c) Principal / Principle
(d) Loose / Lose
(e) Rise / Raise
(f) Hoard / Horde
(g) Who's / Whose
(h) Its / It's
(i) Flair / Flare
(j) Belief / Believe

7. Explain and make sentences with *any five* (5) of the given idioms and phrases:

(5x2=10)

- (a) To be at dagger's drawn
(b) A green horn
(c) To pay off old scores
(d) Call a spade a spade
(e) Paint the town red
(f) A left handed compliment
(g) Keep the pot boiling
(h) To strike a chord