

MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

TECHNICAL COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR JUNIOR GRADE OF MIZORAM ENGINEERING SERVICE (M.E.S.) UNDER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM, MARCH, 2020

GENERAL ENGLISH

Time Allowed : 3 hours

FM : 100

Marks for each question is indicated against it.

Attempt all questions

1. Write an essay in about 300 words on **any one** of the given topics : - **(20)**

- Environment Vs Growth
- Road connectivity and Development in Mizoram
- Mizoram in relation to “Citizens Amendment Act”.

2. Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow: **(20)**

People in the present day civilization have become highly materialistic. Money is the only God they know. Consequently, all their efforts, and most of their working hours, go into earning money and still more money. The life of a rich businessman, especially in the developed countries, is extremely busy. Thousands have to be converted into lakhs and lakhs into crores. There is no end and no respite for him. Along with money, come the demands of their social life. To keep abreast of the times, they have to throw and attend big parties, meeting powerful and influential people to serve their business ends.

One unfortunate result of their excessively busy and fast life is the total neglect of their children. The rich can provide their children with all that money can buy, rich food, expensive clothes, cars and every other imaginable comfort and luxury. But they simply cannot give them what they need most, parental care and affection on a personal level for which there is no substitute in the whole world. These children, brought up almost entirely by hired attendants, develop a twisted personality. Money ceases to attract them and they have known nothing beyond it. Their rich, busy and well-bred parents are one day shocked to find that their children have developed some of the traits of their own attendants which are, to say the least, considerably less than well-bred.

(a) What is the author’s opinion of people in present day civilization? **(3)**

(b) What is the impact of such excessively busy lifestyle? **(3)**

(c) How do children develop in such an environment of materialism? **(3)**

(d) Provide a suitable title **(1)**

(e) Make sentences with the following words taken from the passage: **(3×2=6)**

(i) Materialistic (ii) Abreast

(iii) Substitute

(f) Find words in the passage which are similar in meaning to the words given below :

(4×1=4)

(i) Rest (ii) Transformed

(iii) Supply (iv) Terminate

3. Write a precis of the given passage. (20)

The individual human being or race or nation must necessarily have a certain depth and certain roots somewhere. They do not count for much unless they have roots in the past, which is after all the accumulation of generations of experience and some type of wisdom. It is essential that you have that. Otherwise you become just pale copies of something which has no real meaning to you as an individual or as a group. On the other hand one cannot live in roots alone. Even roots wither unless they come out in the sun and the free air. Only then can roots give you sustenance. Only then can there be branching out and a flowering. How, then, are you to balance these two essential factors? It is very difficult, because some people think a great deal about the flowers and the leaves on the branches, forgetting that they only flourish because there is a stout root to sustain them. Others think so much of the roots that no flower or leaves or branches are left; there is only a thick stem somewhere. So, the question is how one is to achieve a balance.

Does culture mean some inner growth in the man? Of course, it must. Does it mean the way he behaves to others? Certainly it must. Does it mean the capacity to understand the other person? I suppose so. Does it mean the capacity to make yourself understood by the other person. I suppose so. It means all that. A person who cannot understand another's viewpoint is to that extent limited in mind and culture, because nobody perhaps, barring some very extraordinary human beings, can presume to have the fullest knowledge and wisdom. The other party or the other group may have some inkling of knowledge or wisdom or truth and if we shut our minds to that then we not only deprive ourselves of it but we cultivate an attitude of mind which, I would say, is opposed to that of a cultured man. The cultured mind, rooted in itself, should have its windows and doors open. It should have the capacity to understand the other's viewpoint fully even though it cannot always agree with it. The question of agreement or disagreement only arises when you understand a thing. Otherwise, it is blind negation which is not a cultured approach to any question.

Nationalism, of course, is a curious phenomenon which at a certain stage in a country's history gives life, growth, strength and unity but, at the same time, it has a tendency to limit one, because one thinks of one's country as something different from the rest of the world. The perspective changes and one is continuously thinking of one's own struggles and virtues and failings to the exclusion of other thoughts. The result is that the same nationalism, which is the symbol of growth for a people, becomes a symbol of cessation of that growth in the mind. Nationalism, when it becomes successful, sometimes goes on spreading in an aggressive way and becomes a danger internationally. Whatever line of thought you follow, you arrive at a conclusion that some kind of balance must be found. Otherwise something that was good can turn into evil.

4. Choose the correct alternative from those in the brackets to fill in the blanks: (10×1=10)

- (a) The old beggar was sitting _____ the road. (beside/besides)
- (b) Ten quintals _____ a heavy load. (are/is)
- (c) Sangi has been ill _____ three days. (since/for)
- (d) All possible means _____ been tried. (have/has)
- (e) My friend and benefactor _____ come. (has/have)
- (f) The house,with its contents _____ insured. (was/were)
- (g) Poets often _____ to great heights of imagination. (sore/soar)
- (h) Knowledge _____ from God. (proceeds/precedes)
- (i) He _____ this bag for her. (carry/carries)
- (j) Do you _____ in ghosts? (believes/believe)

5. Choose the correct alternative from those in the brackets to fill in the blanks: **(10×1=10)**

- (a) No _____ reasons were given. (farther/further)
- (b) Corrupt person are not _____ for responsible posts. (illigible/eligible)
- (c) I can't stay _____ than half an hour. (longer/longest)
- (d) The _____ news from China is very disquieting. (latest/last)
- (e) He is a man of _____ character. (lose/loose)
- (f) The _____ part of the book shows signs of hurry. (later/latter)
- (g) Sports is more _____ than politics. (interest/interesting)
- (h) The burglar was taken to the _____ police station. (nearest/near)
- (i) He does not have _____ friends. (many/much)
- (j) The _____ Moghul Emperor came to an ignominious end. (latest/last)

6. Correct the sentences: **(10×1=10)**

- (a) I almost read half the book.
- (b) If I would lost my passport, I'll be in trouble.
- (c) One of the boys were given leave.
- (d) The strength of a nation lie in its achievement.
- (e) They elected her as President.
- (f) Their words are like the star.
- (g) Kima told to me about it.
- (h) He told his friends watch and pray.
- (i) We discussed about the matter yesterday.
- (j) The weather effect his health.

7. Make sentences with **any five** of the following idioms: **(5×2=10)**

- (a) Make both ends meet
- (b) Draw off
- (c) In a nutshell
- (d) Go about
- (e) By fits and starts
- (f) Turn up
- (g) Give vent to

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