

MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

GENERAL COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF DISTRICT ORGANISER (CONTRACT) UNDER DISASTER MANAGEMENT & REHABILITATION DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM. OCTOBER, 2019

GENERAL ENGLISH

Time Allowed : 3 hours

Full Marks : 100

Attempt all questions.

SECTION - A

(20 Marks)

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

1. Write an essay on any one (1) of the following in not more than 300 words:

- Plastic pollution in Aizawl
- Prospects of non-governmental jobs in Mizoram
- A healthy mind in a healthy body

SECTION - B

(80 Marks)

All questions carry equal mark of 1 each. Attempt all questions.

This Section should be answered only on the OMR Response Sheet provided.

Directions (Question 1-16): Read the following passage carefully and choose the appropriate answer to each of the questions out of the four alternatives:

Philosophy of Education is a label applied to the study of the purpose, process, nature and ideals of education. It can be considered a branch of both philosophy and education. Education can be defined as the teaching and learning of specific skills, and the imparting of knowledge, judgment and wisdom, and is something broader than the societal institution of education we often speak of. Many educationalists consider it a weak and woolly field, too far removed from the practical applications of the real world to be useful. But philosophers dating back to Plato and the Ancient Greeks have given the area much thought and emphasis, and there is little doubt that their work has helped shape the practice of education over the millennia.

Plato is the earliest important educational thinker, and education is an essential element in "The Republic" (his most important work on philosophy and political theory, written around 360 B.C.). In it, he advocates some rather extreme methods: removing children from their mothers' care and raising them as wards of the state, and differentiating children suitable to the various castes, the highest receiving the most education, so that they could act as guardians of the city and care for the less able. He believed that education should be holistic, including facts, skills, physical discipline, music and art. Plato's beliefs regarding education was very democratic in that he believed that talent and intelligence is not distributed genetically and thus is be found in children born to all classes; however, his proposed system of selective public education for an educated minority of the population does not really follow a democratic model.

Aristotle considered human nature, habit and reason to be equally important forces to be cultivated in education, the ultimate aim of which should be to produce good and virtuous citizens. He proposed that teachers lead their students systematically, and that repetition be used as a key tool to develop good habits, unlike Socrates' emphasis on questioning his listeners to bring out their own ideas. He emphasized the balancing of the theoretical and practical aspects of subjects taught, among which he explicitly mentions reading, writing, mathematics, music, physical education, literature, history, and a wide range of sciences, as well as play, which he also considered important.

During the Medieval period, the idea of Perennialism was first formulated by St. Thomas Aquinas in his work "De Magistro". Perennialism holds that one should teach those things deemed to be of everlasting importance to all people everywhere, namely principles and reasoning, not just facts (which are apt to change over time), and that one should teach first about people, not machines or techniques. It was originally religious in nature, and it was only much later that a theory of secular perennialism developed.

During the Renaissance, the French skeptic Michel de Montaigne (1533 - 1592) was one of the first to critically look at education. Unusually for his time, Montaigne was willing to question the conventional wisdom of the period, calling into question the whole edifice of the educational system, and the implicit assumption that university-educated philosophers were necessarily wiser than uneducated farm workers, for example.

1. What is the difference between the approaches of Socrates and Aristotle?
 - (a) Aristotle felt the need for repetition to develop good habits in students; Socrates felt that students need to be constantly questioned
 - (b) Aristotle felt the need for rote-learning; Socrates emphasized on dialogic learning
 - (c) There was no difference
 - (d) Aristotle emphasized on the importance of paying attention to human nature; Socrates emphasized upon science.
2. Why do educationists consider philosophy a 'weak and woolly' field?
 - (a) It is not practically applicable
 - (b) Its theoretical concepts are easily understood
 - (c) It is irrelevant for education
 - (d) None of the above
3. What do you understand by the term 'Perennialism', in the context of the given comprehension passage?
 - (a) It refers to something which is of ceaseless importance
 - (b) It refers to something which is quite unnecessary
 - (c) It refers to something which is abstract and theoretical
 - (d) It refers to something which existed in the past and no longer exists now
4. Why were Plato's views on education considered democratic?
 - (a) He believed that only the rich have the right to acquire education
 - (b) He believed intelligence was not based on genetics
 - (c) He believed that only a select few are meant to attend schools
 - (d) He believed that all pupils are not talented

5. Why did Aquinas propose a model of education which did not lay much emphasis on facts?
 - (a) Facts are not important
 - (b) Facts do not lead to holistic education
 - (c) Facts change with the changing times
 - (d) Facts are frozen in time
6. What did Aristotle believe should be the aim of education?
 - (a) To produce philosophical students
 - (b) To produce a master race
 - (c) To produce good and virtuous citizens
 - (d) To enrich the state
7. What does Plato mean when he believes education should be holistic?
 - (a) It should concern itself to the study of holy subjects.
 - (b) It should deal with the various forms of nature.
 - (c) It should be given only to the most intelligent students.
 - (d) It should include facts, skills, physical discipline, music and art.
8. What was the change in the evolution of Perennialism?
 - (a) It was originally religious in nature, but later became secular.
 - (b) It originally dealt with just philosophy but later incorporated literature and play.
 - (c) It was originally undemocratic, but later became democratic.
 - (d) It originally stressed on repetitious learning, but later on creative thought.
9. Why did Plato suggest removing children from their mothers' care and to raise them as wards of the state?
 - (a) To differentiate children suitable to the various castes.
 - (b) To stamp out sentimentality in their education.
 - (c) To eradicate non-holistic practices of teaching.
 - (d) To raise them as soldiers to protect the state.
10. Perennialism suggests that the first subjects that should be taught are about.....
 - (a) Machineries
 - (b) Technology
 - (c) Governance
 - (d) People
11. What conventional wisdom did Montaigne question?
 - (a) That uneducated farm workers cannot be taught.
 - (b) That university-educated philosophers were wiser than uneducated farm workers.
 - (c) That there could be a critical look at education.
 - (d) The balancing of the theoretical and practical aspects of subjects taught.
12. What contribution have philosophers given to the field of education?
 - (a) None
 - (b) Their work has helped shape the practice of education over the millennia.
 - (c) They have helped make education secular.
 - (d) They have emphasized the need for fact-based teaching.
13. What does the word "emphasis" mean?
 - (a) deep thought
 - (b) a term used in philosophy to denote learning
 - (c) special importance, or prominence given to something
 - (d) to join together

14. How does education feature in Plato's "The Republic"?
- (a) as a state-run institution (b) as an essential element
(c) he did not mention it at all (d) it is the sole subject mentioned
15. What does the phrase, "calling into question" mean?
- (a) to cause doubts about something (b) to interrogate someone
(c) a system of education (d) to cultivate an inquiring mind
16. Under what branch of study does Philosophy of Education come?
- (a) Education and Humanities (b) Social Science
(c) Education and Philosophy (d) Human Psychology

Directions (Q. 17- 32): Choose the correct meaning of the underlined idioms and phrases from the alternatives given below:

17. He told me to be careful because what goes around comes around.
- (a) to reap the benefits of hard work (b) to face the consequences of one's actions
(c) to laugh at other's misfortune (d) to meddle in others' affairs
18. John is a good hand at carpentry
- (a) to be an expert at something (b) to be a cheerful worker
(c) to be a constant source of amusement (d) to be a helpful person
19. His remarks have only fanned the flame of his hatred.
- (a) to diminish (b) to be the cause
(c) to come to nothing (d) to intensify feelings
20. She shed crocodile tears at her husband's funeral.
- (a) unreal tears (b) to cry bitterly
(c) to be unable to cry (d) a single teardrop
21. His stern face threw cold water on all my hopes.
- (a) to encourage (b) to discourage
(c) to make possible (d) to laugh at
22. my father was a man of letters.
- (a) one having good handwriting (b) one who likes writing
(c) one who loves to talk too much (d) a learned person
23. He went off the radar after he won the lottery.
- (a) to avoid people's notice (b) to become mad
(c) to draw attention (d) to change completely
24. Expecting him to buy me a new dress was out of the question.
- (a) impossible (b) permissible
(c) extravagant (d) hopeful
25. the politician was born with the gift of the gab.
- (a) talent for speaking (b) a gifted person
(c) a very high IQ (d) to have immense wealth
26. Jane let the cat out of the bag regarding Mary's surprise party.
- (a) to look after animals (b) to be given responsibility
(c) to reveal a secret (d) to spoil something

27. I'm forced to play second fiddle to a dog for her favours.
(a) to entertain (b) to fight with
(c) to take an unimportant part (d) to assume responsibility
28. I have to pass through the acid test of her father's approval.
(a) to meet someone (b) to propose
(c) to beg for something (d) to take a critical test
29. One cannot afford to sit on the fence regarding today's politics.
(a) to remain neutral (b) to be a spy
(c) to be ignorant (d) to be too passionate
30. His remarks about my parentage have hit my Achilles' heels.
(a) to cause physical injury (b) a weak point
(c) a cause of pride (d) a source of amusement
31. I know for a fact that she is no spring chicken.
(a) very robust and healthy (b) older than one says
(c) coming from a lower class (d) a snob
32. She is at the zenith of her fame.
(a) at the lowest degree (b) towards the end
(c) towards the beginning (d) at the highest degree

Directions: (Q.no 33-39) Fill in the blanks with the correct verbs :

33. I _____ a message from her.
(a) hope (b) except
(c) expect (d) accept
34. We mourned the _____ of a great man.
(a) lose (b) loss
(c) Loose (d) Lost
35. He had _____ me badly with his words and action.
(a) hurt (b) hurted
(c) hurts (d) hurtened
36. He _____ by this time tomorrow.
(a) would arrive (b) arrived
(c) will have arrived (d) arrives
37. The cup of water had _____ by the time I took it out of the freezer.
(a) Freezed (b) freeze
(c) Froze (d) frozen
38. It _____ when I left home this morning.
(a) rains (b) has been raining
(c) was raining (d) will have rained
39. You _____ your assignment.
(a) does not complete (b) have not completed
(c) has not completed (d) don't complete

Directions (Q.No. 40-44): Fill in the blanks with the correct prepositions:

40. They have built a bridge _____ the river.
(a) above (b) over
(c) on (d) atop
41. The beggar was sitting _____ the road.
(a) aside (b) besides
(c) outside (d) beside
42. The food was distributed _____ the children.
(a) among (b) between
(c) from (d) within
43. I was born _____ Thursday, the 25th of March.
(a) in (b) on
(c) at (d) since
44. I shall stay here _____ Sunday.
(a) by (b) till
(c) since (d) at

Directions (Q.no. 45-48): Identify the parts of speech of the underlined words:

45. French women are very beautiful.
(a) Adjective (b) Noun
(c) Adverb (d) Pronoun
46. John said he would do the task himself.
(a) Noun (b) Pronoun
(c) Adverb (d) Preposition
47. You have given me the wrong information.
(a) Adverb (b) Adjective
(c) verb (d) Noun
48. You ought to obey your parents.
(a) Adverb (b) Adjective
(c) verb (d) preposition

Directions (Q.No. 49-53): Analyse the given sentences and choose the correct option:

49. He could not come for he was down with fever.
(a) Simple sentence (b) Complex Sentence
(c) Compound sentence
50. It is very hot. One cannot go out.
(a) Simple sentence (b) Complex Sentence
(c) Compound Sentence
51. Here comes the girl who stole my purse.
(a) Simple sentence (b) Complex Sentence
(c) Compound sentence

52. Neither John nor Jacob has done their homework.
(a) Simple sentence (b) Complex sentence
(c) Compound sentence
53. Amos, my husband, is the son of a Doctor.
(a) Simple sentence (b) Complex sentence
(c) Compound sentence

Directions: (Q.No. 54- 64) Choose the correct transformation of the following sentences as directed in brackets:

54. Mark's team won the match easily. (use 'easily' as a noun form)
(a) Mark's team won the match in an easy manner.
(b) Mark's team won the match easefully.
(c) Mark's team won the match with ease.
(d) Mark's team won the match at ease.
55. She had a narrow escape from death. (use 'narrow' as an adverb)
(a) She had narrowly escaped.
(b) She had a nearly escaped death.
(c) She had escaped death in a narrow manner.
(d) she had escaped death with narrowness.
56. This news is too good to be true. (remove 'too')
(a) The news is not true.
(b) The news is good enough to be true.
(c) The news is so good that it cannot be true.
(d) The news is extremely good to be true.
57. Few students are as intelligent as Sarah. (use comparative degree of comparison)
(a) Few students are more intelligent than Sarah.
(b) Sarah is more intelligent than most students.
(c) Sarah is the most intelligent of the students.
(d) More students are as intelligent as Sarah.
58. Had he not been careless, he would have passed. (Change into affirmative)
(a) Had he been careless, he would have passed.
(b) Had he been more carefree, he would have passed.
(c) Had he been careful, he would not have passed.
(d) Had he been careful, he would have passed.
59. O that he may choose me for his bride. (Change into Assertive)
(a) It is a pity that he may choose me for his bride.
(b) I earnestly wish that he may choose me for his bride.
(c) He may choose me for his bride indeed
(d) It is shameful that I should be chosen as his bride.

60. No sooner than the bell rang than we rushed out of the class. (interchange principal and subordinate clauses)
- (a) The bell rang as soon as we rushed out of the class.
 - (b) We rushed out of the class as soon as the bell rang.
 - (c) We rushed out of the class no sooner.
 - (d) No sooner did we ran out of the class than the bell rang.
61. In spite of his poor health, he still attends church regularly. (change to compound)
- (a) He attends church regularly in spite of his poor health.
 - (b) He attends church regularly owing to his poor health.
 - (c) His health is poor but he attends church regularly.
 - (d) His health is poor since he attends church regularly.
62. I killed the cow that belonged to the farmer. (change to simple)
- (a) I killed the cow which belonged to the farmer.
 - (b) I killed a cow and it belonged to the farmer.
 - (c) The farmer's cow has been killed by me.
 - (d) I killed the farmer's cow.
63. I can prove that she has cheated you. (Change to compound)
- (a) She has cheated you and I can prove it.
 - (b) She has cheated you. I can prove it.
 - (c) That she has cheated you can be proven by me.
 - (d) She has cheated you with proof.
64. I do not know the place of my birth. (Change to Complex)
- (a) I do not know my birth-place.
 - (b) The place of my birth, I do not know it.
 - (c) I do not know where I was born.
 - (d) It is not known to me where I was birthed.

Directions (Question 65- 70): Choose the word nearest in meaning to the underlined words:

65. Mr. Prasad won the election by an unanimous vote.
- (a) undecided
 - (b) anonymous
 - (c) uncontested
 - (d) divided
66. She had not applied any make-up on her face to show her contrition.
- (a) repentance
 - (b) condition
 - (c) pregnancy
 - (d) natural beauty
67. His account of being charitable is a blatant lie.
- (a) white lie
 - (b) hidden
 - (c) unspeakable
 - (d) obvious
68. It is inconceivable that you should live here in my locality.
- (a) beyond belief
 - (b) a great joy
 - (c) distasteful
 - (d) a pleasure

69. His years in office were marked by corruption and nepotism.
(a) death (b) crime
(c) favouritism (d) poverty
70. He left me with a collection of photographs and mementos.
(a) jewelry (b) souvenirs
(c) love letters (d) videos

Directions (Q.No. 71- 75): Choose the word opposite in meaning to the underlined words:

71. She was very apathetic towards me when I met her.
(a) enthusiastic (b) angry
(c) indifferent (d) honest
72. I was very impressed by his diligent manner.
(a) intelligent (b) stupid
(c) idle (d) haughty
73. My father was so gregarious that I was sometimes made uncomfortable by it.
(a) talkative (b) gentle
(c) reserved (d) honest
74. Mary has always been very hostile to the idea of change.
(a) unaccepting (b) friendly
(c) indifferent (d) ignorant
75. Bruce's army yielded to the English soldiers.
(a) resisted (b) obeyed
(c) surrendered (d) marched

Directions (Q.No. 76-80): Identify the correct usage of the words given in the alternatives below:

76. We have to learn to _____ to different circumstances.
(a) adopt (b) adapt
(c) adept (d) adupt
77. This food is _____. Who has cooked it?
(a) inedible (b) ineligible
(c) intelligible (d) indelible
78. I cannot tell _____ this is true or not.
(a) weather (b) that
(c) whether (d) which
79. Tom and Jones are both poor. The _____ is also blind as well.
(a) later (b) next
(c) latter (d) subsequent
80. I have great _____ for your suffering.
(a) pity (b) mercy
(c) sympathy (d) compassion