

MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

TECHNICAL COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF COMPUTER OPERATOR (CONTRACT) UNDER SECRETARIAT ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT, AUGUST, 2016

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 given topics in not more than 300 words:
 - Social Media and Society
 - Traffic Congestion and Measures to Improve it
 - Class Distinction in Mizoram

SECTION - B **(80 Marks)**

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

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

Directions (Questions 1-16): from the four alternatives given below, choose the correct meaning of the idioms and phrases given in italics in the sentences:

1. The political candidate won the election because he had *the gift of the gab*.
 - (a) money to bribe people
 - (b) a talent for speaking
 - (c) an attractive physique
 - (d) good political connections
2. My grandfather was a *man of letters*:
 - (a) a writer
 - (b) a good speaker
 - (c) a correspondent
 - (d) a learned man
3. Mrs. Malley was always tired because her young son was a *ball of fire*.
 - (a) energetic and active
 - (b) feverish and sick
 - (c) crying incessantly
 - (d) disobedient
4. John hated to attend parties because he always felt like *a bull in a China shop* at social events,
 - (a) unwanted
 - (b) clumsy and awkward
 - (c) quiet and silent person
 - (d) too popular
5. I could not attend church yesterday because I was *out of sorts*.
 - (a) too busy with work
 - (b) feeling unwell
 - (c) out of the country
 - (d) having a quarrel with someone

6. The late singer David Bowie *cast a long shadow* over other musicians.
(a) blocked other's success (b) is above average height
(c) encouraged other people (d) had a great influence
7. Despite his brave words, the soldier had a hidden *yellow streak*.
(a) a secret (b) cruelty
(c) a weapon (d) cowardliness
8. I got this second-hand car *for a song*.
(a) for free (b) for a musical performance
(c) cheaply (d) in exchange for something
9. After working for three straight hours on the report, I decided *to call it a day*.
(a) it is now night-time (b) the day's work is done
(c) to give up on it (d) it needs to be redone
10. Learning to cook is *child's play*; all it takes is practice.
(a) very easy (b) a relaxing pastime
(c) very hectic (d) very tricky
11. The outing would have been much better if the guide had not been such a *wet blanket*.
(a) sick person (b) overweight person
(c) dull or depressing person (d) fast talker
12. The lawyer promised to help the defendant, *no strings attached*.
(a) secretly (b) for a small fee
(c) in exchange for favours (d) without any conditions
13. It was an *open secret* that the vacant post had already been promised to the Chairman's son.
(a) known to everybody (b) not known to anyone
(c) known to some (d) declared to everyone
14. Despite being a huge celebrity, she was really *down to earth*.
(a) plain-looking (b) sensible and practical
(c) not very rich (d) generous and fun
15. Looking at the state of the world nowadays, I feel it is all *going to the dogs*.
(a) deteriorating (b) progressing
(c) class-separation (d) destroyed
16. He had been recently divorced so we had to *skirt around* the topic of relationships.
(a) constantly talk about (b) sympathize with
(c) inform everyone (d) avoid talking about

Directions (Question 17-32): Read the following passage carefully and choose the appropriate answer to each of the questions out of the four alternatives:

Man is a social animal. But living in society is not an easy job. There are social codes of conduct to be followed if one is to live in civilised society. How one behaves with others, how he approaches another person and how far he is successful in playing his role in the society indicates his manners. So, broadly speaking, we can define manners to be well established standard of conduct on the social life.

Nobody is born with inherent good manners. Everyone either learns or acquires them. The best place to cultivate manners and etiquettes is the home which is a miniature society and where the child spends most of its time. Children try to imitate their parents and elders in their behaviour and slowly learn and acquire certain traits of character that they have learnt at home. In the school, the teacher plays an important role in cultivation of good manners and etiquettes. Teachers with their ideal behaviour imbibe good manners in the school students.

Anywhere we go, we are judged by the way we speak because it is a good indicator of our character and personality. How we speak, both to people who are younger and older than us, reflects our personality. More than anything, our manner of speaking to people who are socially inferior to us speaks a great deal about our character. The well-mannered person interacts with everyone in the same polite manner, regardless of age, sex, class, gender or religion. He does not discriminate, but respects each individual regardless of their status. He always tries to avoid offensive and harsh words and always shows respect to others.

It is also equally important to be very careful about one's behaviour in any social gathering. Not only our words, but our action and gestures should also be polite. Polite actions include opening doors for others, greeting them, giving up our seats in public transportations, not encroaching on their personal space, etc. Give everybody an equal opportunity to speak and never try to speak while another person is speaking. Respect the person who is speaking. Do not get agitated if one does not agree with you or when you disagree with others. In a group of people always wait for your turn to speak. Do not monopolise the whole conversation. If ever you want to criticise anybody, do it in a manner that it does not hurt the person. Do it in a polite and civilised manner.

It has often been said that 'manners maketh man'. It is good manners that define us as civilised persons. We judge people based on their words and actions and the polite, well-mannered individual is immediately perceived as mature, confident and capable. One may amass great wealth or fame, but if his manners are unpleasant, he does not command respect. Therefore, if one wants to be considered as a respectable and confident person, he first has to treat others in a respectable manner. By cultivating good manners, one can thereby, become the person that he wishes to be.

17. Manners may be defined as:

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| (a) success in playing one's role in society | (b) how we act when we are at home |
| (c) standard of conduct in society | (d) something you are born with |

18. One should cultivate manners at home because

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| (a) we should respect our family | (b) it is a miniature society |
| (c) we do not learn manners anywhere else | (d) living in society is not an easy job |

19. Children learn their manners through

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|-------------|------------------|
| (a) lessons | (b) imitation |
| (c) society | (d) instructions |

20. How do teachers cultivate good manners?

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| (a) by their ideal behaviour | (b) by lecturing the students |
| (c) by giving notes | (d) by cultivation |

21. The well-mannered person speaks to his social inferiors

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| (a) only when necessary | (b) in a rude and offensive way |
| (c) the same way as everyone else | (d) in a soft, pleasant tone |

22. When someone does not agree with you,

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|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| (a) avoid becoming agitated | (b) monopolise the conversation |
| (c) interrupt them respectfully | (d) avoid speaking |

23. The word “monopolise” means
(a) a board game (b) to speak in a rough tone
(c) to overpower someone (d) to obtain exclusive control
24. When criticising someone, it is best to do so in a
(a) civilised manner (b) soft voice
(c) pleasant tone (d) quiet manner
25. Find the word in the passage which means ‘intruding beyond acceptable limits’.
(a) amass (b) interacts
(c) encroaching (d) offensive
26. What does ‘manners maketh man’ mean?
(a) only men are capable of manners (b) your manners reveal who you are
(c) good manners make us civilised (d) you are a confident, reliable individual
27. Living in society is not an easy job because:
(a) one must interact with all sorts of people
(b) man is a social animal and cannot live alone
(c) one has to play his role in society
(d) one must follow socially-accepted codes of conduct
28. Good manners are
(a) inherent (b) acquired
(c) imitated (d) taught
29. The well-mannered individual interacts with different people
(a) in the same polite way (b) in a low, pleasant voice
(c) according to their status (d) with polite gestures and actions
30. A person can earn respect by
(a) amassing great wealth (b) first treating others with respect
(c) giving everyone an opportunity to speak (d) appearing confident and capable
31. People judge us on the way we speak because
(a) we interact with all kinds of people (b) it is a reflection of our personality
(c) it reveals our role in society (d) it is a way to cultivate good manners
32. One can become the person that he wishes to be by
(a) developing good manners (b) by treating others respectfully
(c) by being a civilised person (d) by gaining wealth and fame

Directions (Questions 33-38): Identify the correct form of prepositions from the alternatives given under each sentence:

33. The boy jumped _____ the wall.
(a) upon (b) over
(c) to (d) above
34. I am indifferent _____ your malicious lies.
(a) about (b) with
(c) of (d) to

35. I have made full preparation _____ the function.
(a) for (b) of
(c) to (d) on
36. I have complete faith _____ your decision.
(a) with (b) upon
(c) in (d) of
37. The drunk driver ran _____ the puppy.
(a) into (b) over
(c) against (d) on
38. I shall return _____ this week itself.
(a) within (b) by
(c) on (d) at

Directions (Questions 39-44): Identify the parts of speech for each underlined word:

39. This phone is much better than that.
(a) Pronoun (b) Adverb
(c) Adjective (d) Noun
40. Poverty is a huge problem in India.
(a) Adverb (b) Verb
(c) Noun (d) Adjective
41. Smoking has a bad effect on one's health.
(a) Preposition (b) Verb
(c) Adverb (d) Adjective
42. I have supported you a lot in the past, but not anymore.
(a) Pronoun (b) Adverb
(c) Adjective (d) Verb
43. He came yesterday to see you, but you were out.
(a) Adverb (b) Adjective
(c) Verb (d) Noun
44. She coloured her hair green.
(a) Noun (b) Adverb
(c) Adjective (d) Preposition

Directions (Questions 45-48): Identify the correct verb-form to fill in the blanks:

45. I _____ my medications since last week.
(a) have missed (b) was missing
(c) have been missing (d) miss
46. The plane _____ by the time you get to the airport.
(a) will be arriving (b) shall arrive
(c) had arrived (d) will have arrived

47. She _____ several jobs since graduating from college.
(a) has had (b) has
(c) will have (d) had had
48. _____ your umbrella with you when you leave?
(a) Will you be taking (b) Will you have taken
(c) Will you take (d) You will take

Directions (Questions 49-53): Analyse the given sentences and choose the correct option:

49. The poor labourer came to me with his starving family.
(a) Simple Sentence (b) Compound Sentence (c) Complex Sentence
50. I could not come, for I was down with fever.
(a) Compound Sentence (b) Complex Sentence (c) Simple sentence
51. Finishing my book, I placed it on the table.
(a) Compound Sentence (b) Simple sentence (c) Complex sentence
52. The poor man paid off his debts in time, but that still failed to satisfy his creditors who demanded more.
(a) Simple sentence (b) Complex sentence (c) Compound sentence
53. I have sold my car which was red in colour.
(a) Compound sentence (b) Simple sentence (c) Complex sentence

Directions (Questions 54-58): Pick the correct clause of the words underlined in the given sentences:

54. Where is the money that I gave you yesterday?
(a) noun clause (b) adjective clause
(c) co-ordinate clause (d) adverb clause
55. The book which was stolen was mine.
(a) adverb clause (b) adjective clause
(c) co-ordinate clause (d) noun clause
56. I have been ill since I came here three days ago.
(a) adverb clause (b) co-ordinate clause
(c) noun clause (d) adjective clause
57. I am happy to know that you have succeeded.
(a) noun clause (b) adverb clause
(c) co-ordinate clause (d) adjective clause
58. He carried his laptop with him wherever he went.
(a) co-ordinate clause (b) adjective clause
(c) noun clause (d) adverb clause

Directions (Questions 59-64): Identify the correct notion expressed by each of the following sentences by choosing one of the alternatives given below:

59. He did not fail to turn up.
(a) assertive (b) interrogative
(c) negative (d) imperative
60. That a mere beggar should scorn his king!
(a) imperative (b) exclamatory
(c) interrogative (d) assertive
61. Leave the room this instant!
(a) interrogative (b) exclamatory
(c) assertive (d) imperative
62. We were unable to complete our task.
(a) negative (b) exclamatory
(c) assertive (d) interrogative
63. Would that I were a rich man, what riches I would shower upon you!
(a) exclamatory (b) interrogative
(c) assertive (d) negative
64. How dare you disobey my orders?
(a) exclamatory (b) negative
(c) imperative (d) interrogative

Directions (Questions 65-72): identify the correct usage of the words given in the alternatives below:

65. The Director said that he was sorry for my _____.
(a) lost (b) loose
(c) loss (d) lose
66. The furious boss shouted at the drunken clerk, “_____ fired!”
(a) You’re (b) Your
(c) You (d) You’ll
67. May God have _____ on you.
(a) sympathy (b) compassion
(c) sorry (d) mercy
68. What a _____ garden you have!
(a) lovely (b) beloved
(c) lovable (d) loving
69. _____ an example to support your answer.
(a) Sight (b) Site
(c) Cite (d) Side
70. Your notes are _____ because your handwriting is so untidy.
(a) ineligible (b) inedible
(c) illegible (d) indelible

71. The son vowed to _____ the murder of his father.
(a) vengeance (b) revenge
(c) violence (d) avenge
72. The father gave his _____ to the marriage of his daughter.
(a) ascent (b) assent
(c) accent (d) ascension

Directions (Questions 73-80): Identify the word that gives the nearest meaning of the underlined words in the following sentences:

73. I'm not sure whether her story was credible or not.
(a) amazing (b) believable
(c) interesting (d) dull
74. The Queen's dragons are fierce and invincible.
(a) cannot be seen (b) cannot be tamed
(c) cannot be defeated (d) cannot be controlled
75. The office disposed of its obsolete computers.
(a) outdated (b) damaged
(c) excess (d) repaired
76. After the death of her husband, she became a recluse.
(a) widow (b) one who lives a solitary life
(c) one who does charity work (d) a bitter person
77. The Board was unanimous in its decision regarding the election of a new Chairman.
(a) unable to agree (b) undecided
(c) fully in agreement (d) voting by secret ballot
78. She stood with her hands folded before her like a penitent child.
(a) repentant (b) penniless
(c) punished (d) rebellious
79. He was quite tenacious in his pursuit of the young lady.
(a) confident (b) subtle
(c) persistent (d) charming
80. The Resource Person was given a modest honorarium for presenting a paper at the Seminar.
(a) bouquet (b) certificate
(c) memento (d) payment