

**MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**  
**GENERAL COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF**  
**TOURIST OFFICER**  
**UNDER TOURISM DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM**  
**JULY, 2012**

**GENERAL ENGLISH**  
**PAPER - I**

Time Allowed : 3 hours

Full Marks : 200

*Figures in the margin indicate full marks for the questions.*

*Attempt all questions.*

1. Write an essay on any one of the following topics in not more than 500 words: (25)

- (a) Reality Shows and Their Impact on Children
- (b) Corruption: A Social Evil
- (c) Violence Against Women

2. Write the précis of the following and supply a suitable title: (15)

Personality is a grace that lends itself to one possessed of self-confidence. What is self-confidence? It is a state of mind entirely sure of its own thoughts and actions whether right or wrong. Believe in yourself and in this belief you will grow more and more confidence in yourself. Surety invokes the approval of others, the needed encouragement to greater confidence. The most effective and beneficial influence towards this end is the understanding gained by experience of life so that you can see life in its true proportion and realize that it is not enough to be fine. One must be fitting and know that he alone is the fittest who takes the least cognizance of what others' opinion of him is. It is the fear of others' opinion that binds and imprisons one, while it is fearlessness of that opinion that gives one one's freedom. If we desire that our live should make a fascinating appeal and be full of charm, we must have personality. It is not a thing reserved for the gifted. It can be had by any who wills to have it. But the will must be strong enough to endure the most discouraging experiences, for nothing that is worth having can be gained with ease, and of all the goals in life, personality is the most difficult to gain, precisely as it is the greatest prize to win.

3. This summer vacation you are planning to visit Shimla. Write a letter to a travel agency in Shimla requesting them to book you a room in a five-star hotel. Give other details of your journey and facilities you require there. (15)

OR

Assume that you wish to study in England. Write a letter of inquiry based on your interest. Ask what kind of clubs there are at the university, and what is the procedure for joining them?

4. Idioms and Phrases:

- (a) Give the meanings of any 5 (five) of the following idioms and phrases and use them in sentences of your own. **(5×3=15)**  
(i) Cold feet (ii) At the eleventh hour (iii) An apple of discord (iv) To lead to the altar  
(v) Fair weather friend (vi) Hard and fast (vii) In vogue (viii) Dog in the manger.

5. Read the following passage carefully. Edit and reproduce it making necessary corrections. **(15)**

The word patriotism means love – motherland. It is a natural feeling every person possesses if a person has – love – for – motherland he must be as good as dead. The love for motherland more significant than all varieties of love. This love may be there because of physical beauties of one's its landscape fertility or rich natural resources etc but really a thing to feel proud of Patriotism is untouched by selfishness.

OR

Expand into a paragraph the central idea contained in the following statements: Any 1 (one) **(15)**

- (a) Money is a good servant but a bad master.  
(b) Failures are stepping stones to success.  
(c) Prosperity finds friends, adversity tries them.

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

The defects of the ordinary system of mass education are many. They may be briefly summarized as follows. First, the system of teaching in large classes is rigid. No allowance is made for the peculiar mental constitution of the individual child, who is sacrificed to the average of the class. The class and the fixed curriculum are like the bed of Procrustes in the story: those who are too long for the bed are cut down until they fit; and those who are too short are stretched. The child who is quick and talented in one subject but not in others is compelled under the current system of mass education to sacrifice his talents to his deficiencies. Thus, a child may have a great talent for English and none for arithmetic.

Second, under the present system of mass education by classes, too much stress is laid on teaching and too little on active learning. The child is not encouraged to discover things on his own account. He learns to rely on outside help, not on his own powers. Thus, he loses intellectual independence and all capacity to judge for himself. Moreover, lessons in class leave him mainly unoccupied, and therefore bored. He has to be forced into learning what does not interest him. The information acquired mechanically and reluctantly by dint of brute repetition is rapidly forgotten. Third, the child, being bored and unoccupied, is also mischievous. A strict external discipline becomes necessary, unless there is to be confusion. The child learns to obey, not to control himself. He loses moral as well as intellectual independence.

- (a) Give a suitable title of not more than four words. **(2)**  
(b) Why does the author think that the ordinary system of mass education is rigid? **(3)**  
(c) What happens to a child who is talented in one subject and not in another? **(4)**  
(d) What reason does the author give for a child not developing an intellectual independence? **(3)**  
(e) What happens when a child is bored? **(3)**