

# MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

## TECHNICAL COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR JUNIOR GRADE OF MIZORAM ENGINEERING SERVICE (M.E.S.) UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM, MARCH, 2019.

### GENERAL ENGLISH

Time Allowed : 3 hours

FM : 100

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks for the questions.  
Attempt all questions.*

1. Write an essay on *any one* of the following: (20)

- Importance of Human capital investment in the development of the state
- Implications of globalization through technology
- Religion and Politics

2. Give the précis of the following passage in one third of its length: (15)

It is physically impossible for a well-educated, intellectual, or brave man to make money the chief object of his thoughts just as it is for him to make his dinner the principal object of them. All healthy people like their dinners, but their dinner is not the main object of their lives. So all healthy minded people like making money ought to like it and enjoy the sensation of winning it; it is something better than money.

A good soldier, for instance, mainly wishes to do his fighting well. He is glad of his pay—very properly so, and justly grumbles when you keep him ten years without it—still, his main mission of life is to win battles, not to be paid for winning them. So of clergymen. The clergyman's object is essentially to baptize and preach not to be paid for preaching. So of doctors. They like fees no doubt, —ought to like them; yet if they are brave and well-educated, the entire object to their lives is not fees. They, on the whole, desire to cure the sick; and, if they are good doctors and the choice were fairly put to them, would rather cure their patient and lose their fee than kill him and get it. And so with all the other brave and rightly trained men: their work is first, their fee second—very important always; but still second.

3. Select the word nearest in meaning (Synonym) to the words given below: (5×2=10)

(i) ABOMINABLE

- (a) Detestable
- (c) Attractive

- (b) Flattering
- (d) Sloppy

(ii) CONVIVIAL

- (a) Gloomy
- (c) Cheerful

- (b) Depressed
- (d) Gross

(iii) INHIBIT

- (a) Curb
- (c) Immoderate

- (b) Promote
- (d) Help

(iv) CANDID

- (a) Praise
- (c) Excitement

- (b) Truthful
- (d) Ignorance

(v) INDUSTRIOUS

- (a) Diligent
- (c) Successful

- (b) Punctual
- (d) Sensible

4. Select the word which is closest to the opposite in meaning (Antonym) to the words given below: (5×2=10)

- (i) BIZARRE
  - (a) Common
  - (b) Unusual
  - (c) Offbeat
  - (d) Insider
- (ii) BOON
  - (a) Blemish
  - (b) Misfortune
  - (c) Trouble
  - (d) Curse
- (iii) FRIVOLOUS
  - (a) Furious
  - (b) Idle
  - (c) Intelligent
  - (d) Volatile
- (iv) ACQUIT
  - (a) Discharge
  - (b) Assistant
  - (c) Accuse
  - (d) Colleague
- (v) ALTRUISM
  - (a) Deviance
  - (b) Selfishness
  - (c) Egoism
  - (d) Untruthfulness

5. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/ Phrase (5×2=10)

- (i) Hand over fist
  - (a) Get panic
  - (b) State of high alert
  - (c) Quickly and continuously
  - (d) Get comfortable
- (ii) Talk through one's hat
  - (a) Talk good points
  - (b) To talk secretly
  - (c) Talk positively
  - (d) Talk nonsense
- (iii) Wet behind the ears
  - (a) Undecided
  - (b) Irregular
  - (c) Inexperienced
  - (d) Observe very closely
- (iv) Keep your eyes peeled
  - (a) To watch carefully
  - (b) Searching someone
  - (c) Looking forward
  - (d) Running away
- (v) Hold Your Horses
  - (a) Running Fast
  - (b) Easily successful
  - (c) Be patient
  - (d) Aggressive Possession

6. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate word/ words: (10×1=10)

- (i) The lion sprang \_\_\_\_\_ the buffaloes.
  - (a) at
  - (b) in
  - (c) upon
  - (d) on
- (ii) My brother is devoted \_\_\_\_\_ religion.
  - (a) with
  - (b) to
  - (c) at
  - (d) in
- (iii) When the doorbell rang, I was \_\_\_\_\_ my bath.
  - (a) in
  - (b) have
  - (c) having
  - (d) with
- (iv) He was in a hurry and just glanced \_\_\_\_\_ the letter.
  - (a) through
  - (b) at
  - (c) over
  - (d) by

- (v) The President's speech was so \_\_\_\_\_ that many people were persuaded to accept the need for change.
- (a) expressive (b) articulate  
(c) eloquent (d) calm
- (vi) You must comply \_\_\_\_\_ the orders of your seniors.
- (a) with (b) by  
(c) to (d) upon
- (vii) Nobody likes anyone to intrude \_\_\_\_\_ his privacy.
- (a) with (b) in  
(c) into (d) on
- (viii) There is something wonderful \_\_\_\_\_ him.
- (a) of (b) about  
(c) for (d) inside
- (ix) Make only a few rules for students that emphasize \_\_\_\_\_ behavior.
- (a) correct (b) fitting  
(c) appropriate (d) useful
- (x) The situation in the factory \_\_\_\_\_ no signs of improvement, as the ongoing strike entered second days.
- (a) displayed (b) exposed  
(c) view (d) showed

7. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follows: (20)

The Indian farmer has always been like an areca nut in a nutcracker. There are about 145 million landholdings in the country. With about 92% of them being wholly owned and self-operated, we may assume that we have about 130 million farmers. With more than 40% of our cultivated area of 175 million hectares being irrigated, there is a clear distinction between farmers with irrigation and those with rain-fed **acreages**. The most disadvantaged are the farmers who own patches of the 20 million hectares of unproductive saline land in the country. While farmers who have access to irrigation are better placed, those who are in rain-fed and drought-prone areas are most vulnerable. They occupy 60% of the cultivated area but contribute only 45% of the total agricultural production. These are the farmers without the **financial wherewithal** to withstand the vagaries of nature. A single crop failure due to drought, flood or similar reasons can destroy them.

Crop insurance programmes have not been able to recover farmers' investments in most cases due to lack of accurate farm-level data that can be used to settle claims. Satellite and remote sensing technologies are for the future. Farm economics are beholden to the economics of demand and supply. With every recurring phenomenon of high production that is in excess of demand, there is the consequent (and drastic) fall in prices. Planted acreages have little to no connection with projected demand. When a farmer plants a crop, he does not know what the likely market price of his produce will be. The government's minimum support price gives him some direction, but it operates only with some crops. Neither is the government any better at forecasting. In the 2016 kharif season, for example, the government pushed farmers to reduce cotton and plant more pulses. Those who continued growing cotton made good money but the majority who went in for pulses faced excess supply and are dealing with a steep fall in prices.

There is no commodity-based farmers' organization in the country to address these issues. In other countries, such organizations advise farmers on global projections of demand and supply for specific crops and help in moderating acreages in line with projected demand. Neither are there platforms for farmers to highlight issues to key stakeholders such as policymakers, economists and scientists. Existing farmer organizations are aligned with political or other special interest groups and are neither objective nor scientific in their approach. Hence, the need for the development of a non-partisan platform. Another high-input cost today is that of farm labour, itself a much misunderstood

and maligned issue. Everyone thinks there is ample farm labour available. But the problem is the availability of labour at the right time and at the right cost. The cost of labour has risen due to social welfare programmes and minimum wage levels. At peak times, like sowing, transplanting, harvesting, etc., it is very difficult to get sufficient farm labour. In the case of cotton, for example, the cost of harvesting has risen to about 10% of the selling price—which is very high. Sensitive crops like fruits, vegetables, etc., which have to be harvested at precise times to maximize the quality of the produce, face the same problems.

One solution to address this is greater reliance on technology, be it through farm **mechanization**, the use of weedicides or genetic engineering, that can lower input and time costs. Farmers operating in states with labour shortage use chemical pesticides to control weeds, which is cost- and time - efficient. There is also rapid mechanization of paddy transplantation. Farmers should be encouraged to use such labour-saving options instead of being burdened with the social objective of protecting rural employment and being denied access to new technology.

The Agricultural Produce Market Committee Act prohibits farmers from selling their produce in any mandi other than their designated one. This makes farmers vulnerable to middlemen and vested interests. They are exposed to global prices but are not provided with access to cost-efficient technologies and information systems. This places them at a disadvantage with farmers from other countries. Karnataka has united all mandis in the state on an electronic platform and this has reportedly improved farmers' selling prices by 38%. This should be replicated nationally.

The agricultural extension system has collapsed in many parts of the country. The farmer is forced to depend on the advice of agri-input dealers and commercial organizations instead. Some organizations are attempting to use information and communication technology-based methods to give technical advice to farmers. This may prove to be beneficial. The other issue is that banks need to get more generous with credit in rural areas where the stranglehold of private moneylenders continues to wreak havoc. Lack of rural infrastructure, reliable power, cold-storage, roads and transport systems, etc., continue to cripple farm operations and increase costs.

We need to overhaul our thinking and approach towards addressing farmers' challenges which are complicated and structural in nature. Waiving farm loans is a lazy option for governments and a costly option for the banking system. Successive governments have chosen this option because they do not have the political will to find better solutions.

**Questions:**

- (i) Which of the following statement is wrong according to the given passage:
  - (a) Crop insurance programmes have not been able to recover
  - (b) Farmers' investment due to bad income
  - (c) The MSP operates with selected crops only
  - (d) Farmer organisations are specific in their approach.
  - (e) The social welfare programmes has risen the cost of labours
- (ii) What are the demerits of Agriculture Produce Market Committee?
  - i) Make available cost-efficient technologies to farmers.
  - ii) Making them(farmers) exposed to global prices.
  - iii) Facilitate irrigation system
  - (a) Only i
  - (b) Only ii
  - (c) Only iii
  - (d) Both ii & iii
  - (e) Both iii & i

- (iii) Define “areca nut in a nutcracker”
- (a) Free to live
  - (b) Carrying a huge weight
  - (c) Always under pressure
  - (d) Extremely lucky
  - (e) None of these
- (iv) What are the main issues of Indian farmer?
- (a) A farmer doesn't know the actual Market Price of his crop.
  - (b) Lack of accurate farm-level data.
  - (c) Both A&B
  - (d) High cost of farm-labour
  - (e) All of these
- (v) Write the suitable antonym of “acreage”:
- (a) Property
  - (b) Ground
  - (c) Lands
  - (d) Soil
  - (e) None of these.
- (vi) What are the solutions to address farmers' issues?
- i) Use of chemicals
  - ii) To give technical accessories to farmers
  - iii) To waive farm loans
  - (a) Only i
  - (b) Only ii
  - (c) Only iii
  - (d) Both ii & iii
  - (e) None of these
- (vii) Write the synonym for “mechanization”:
- (a) Disarmament
  - (b) Disorganization
  - (c) Condition
  - (d) Automation
  - (e) None of these
- (viii) What does ‘financial wherewithal’ refer to?
- (a) Debt
  - (b) Funds
  - (c) Claim
  - (d) Incumbrance
  - (e) None of these
- (ix) How technology can help farmers?
- (a) Farm mechanization
  - (b) Genetic engineering
  - (c) Cold Storage
  - (d) Technical advice
  - (e) All except (c)
- (x) What is the most appropriate title of the passage?
- (a) The life of farmer
  - (b) The difficulty of being a farmer
  - (c) Issues of Indian farmer
  - (d) Rights of farmer
  - (e) None of these