

MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
LIMITED DEPARTMENTAL EXAMINATIONS FOR PROMOTION TO
HEADMASTER, GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL UNDER SCHOOL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT,
GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM. SEPTEMBER-2023

PAPER - I

Time Allowed : 3 hours

Full Marks : 100

Pass Marks : 40

Marks for each question is indicated against it.

Attempt all questions.

1. Write an essay on any one of the topics in about 300 words: **(20)**
 - Urbanization and Environmental Pollution
 - Moral Degradation in the Mizo Society

2. Write a précis of the given passage in about one-third of the original length. Give a suitable title. **(20)**

Everyone needs a holiday, both to relax and to have a change of environment. The holiday makers feel relaxed and refreshed at the end of the holiday and look forward to the resumption of their duties, be it at school, office or factories, with renewed vigour. This is the reason why all establishments grant their employees annual leave. With the end of the academic year, the schools and universities grant their pupils a long holiday during mid-summer. This will last until early September when the new school term starts. Of course the parents will like to take advantage of this and take their leave to coincide with the children's vacation. This has become a traditional holiday season in most European countries particularly in England.

With the coming of August, the traditional holiday season in Britain reaches its peak point and most of the holiday resorts are packed to capacity. In order to avoid the crowd, some prefer to take their holidays a little earlier if facilities so warrant. Those who have already taken their holidays can console themselves not only with reflections on the happy days spent in the country, at the seaside or abroad, but also with the thought that holiday expenses are over for the year and that by taking an earlier holiday they have missed the August rush.

The main thing, of course, is the weather and that it would be hazardous to prophesy. But whatever the weather is like, the essence of a holiday for most is the carefree atmosphere in which it can be enjoyed. "Take all you need but leave your worries behind" is the sound advice for the holiday maker. Private worries are not always easy to escape from. However, even the pessimist would admit that for the moment things appear brighter than they have been.

Holiday time is surely a time for shedding serious pre-occupations and seeking the pleasures that appeal to us. It is true that we may not always succeed in finding them; indeed there are people who maintain that the great thing about a holiday is that it gives you an ampler appreciation of home comforts - a view no doubt more widely held among the elderly than you.

3. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow. (5×2=10)

I stopped to let the car cool off and to study the map. I had expected to be near my objective by now, but everything still seemed alien to me. I was only five when my father had taken me abroad, and that was eighteen years ago. When my mother had died after a tragic accident, he did not quickly recover from the shock and loneliness. Everything around him was full of her presence, continually reopening the wound. So he decided to emigrate. In the new country, he became absorbed in making a new life for the two of us, so that he gradually ceased to grieve. He did not marry again and I was brought up without a woman's care; but I lacked nothing, for he was both father and mother to me. He always meant to go back one day, but not to stay. His roots and mine had become too firmly embedded in the new land. But he wanted to see the old folk again and to visit my mother's grave. He became mortally ill a few months before we had planned to go and when he knew that he was dying, he made me promise to go on my own.

I hired a car the day after landing and bought a comprehensive book of maps, which I found most helpful on the cross-country journey, but which I did not think I should need on the last stage. It was not that I actually remembered anything at all. But my father had described over and over again what we should see at every milestone, after leaving the nearest town, so that I was positive I should recognize it as a familiar territory. Well, I had been wrong, for I was now lost.

I looked at the map and then at the speedometer. I had come ten miles since leaving the town, and at this point, according to my father, I should be looking at farms and cottages in a valley, with the spire of the church of our village showing in the far distance. I could see no farms, no cottages and church spire — only a lake. I decided that I must have taken a wrong turning somewhere. So I drove back to the town and began to retrace the route, taking frequent glances at the map. I landed up at the same corner. The curious thing was that the lake was not marked on the map. I felt as if I had stumbled into a nightmare country, as you sometimes do in dreams. And as in a nightmare, there was nobody in sight to help me. Fortunately for me, as I was wondering what to do next, there appeared on the horizon a man on horseback, riding in my direction. I waited till he came near, then I asked him the way to our old village. He said that there was now no village. I thought he must have misunderstood me, so I repeated its name. This time he pointed to the lake. The village no longer existed because it had been submerged, and all the valley too. The lake was not a natural one, but a man-made reservoir.

- (a) The author's father could never quite forget –
- | | |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| (i) his wife | (iii) his wife's grave |
| (ii) his village | (iv) the lake in his village |
- (b) The author's native village was situated-
- | | |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| (i) in a lake | (iii) on the top of a hill |
| (ii) in a valley | (iv) in a man-made reservoir |
- (c) The author couldn't locate his mother's grave because-
- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| (i) he had taken the wrong route | (iii) the whole village had been submerged |
| (ii) it was not marked on the map | (iv) there was no one to help him find the way |
- (d) The author was certain he would recognise the territory around his village because-
- | | |
|--|--|
| (i) he had a very good map with him | (iii) he had lived there the early years of his life |
| (ii) he knew many of the people living there | (iv) his father had described it to him many times |
- (e) The synonym of complete is-
- | | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| (i) positive | (iii) embedded |
| (ii) comprehensive | (iv) objective |

4. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow. (5×2=10)

Punctuality is a necessary habit in all public affairs of a civilised society. Without it, nothing could ever be brought to a conclusion, everything would be in a state of chaos. Only in a sparsely populated rural community, is it possible to disregard it. In ordinary living, there can be some tolerance of punctuality. The intellectual who is working on some abstruse problem has everything coordinated and organised for the matter in hand. He is therefore, forgiven, if late for the dinner party.

But people are often reproached for the unpunctuality when their only fault is cutting things fine. It is hard for energetic, quick - minded people to waste time, so they are often tempted to finish a job before sitting out to keep an appointment. If no accidents occur on the way, like punctured tyres, diversion of traffic, sudden descent of fog, they will be on time. They are often more industrious useful citizens than those who are always late. The over punctual can as much be a trial to others as the unpunctual. The guest who arrives half an hour too soon is the greatest nuisance. Some friends of my family had this irritating habit. The only thing to do was to ask them to come half an hour later than the other guests. Then they arrived just when we wanted them.

- (a) The over-punctual person can be-
- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| (i) over-bearing | (ii) impressive |
| (iii) irritating | (iv) high handed |
- (b) Reason why punctuality is necessary in a society-
- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| (i) for emotional reasons | (ii) to avoid chaos |
| (iii) for environmental factors | (iv) to avoid suffocation |
- (c) People who are punctual are usually-
- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| (i) superior | (ii) complementing |
| (iii) condescending | (iv) hard working |
- (d) Pick out the odd word from the following:
- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| (i) energetic | (ii) irritating |
| (iii) quick-minded | (iv) industrious |
- (e) Choose the correct word which convey similar meaning as '**thinly**'-
- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| (i) comfortably | (ii) ordinarily |
| (iii) horribly | (iv) sparsely |

5. Identify the Part of Speech of the underlined words by choosing from the given options. (10×1=10)

- (a) The horse which I selected won the race.
- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| (i) Adjective | (ii) Adverb |
| (iii) Pronoun | (iv) Noun |
- (b) He claimed his half share of the booty.
- | | |
|---------------|-----------|
| (i) Adjective | (ii) Verb |
| (iii) Adverb | (iv) Noun |
- (c) You must continue your studies.
- | | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| (i) Preposition | (ii) Adverb |
| (iii) Adjective | (iv) Noun |
- (d) How are you?
- | | |
|------------------|-------------|
| (i) Interjection | (ii) Adverb |
| (iii) Pronoun | (iv) Verb |

- (e) The heavens are above.
(i) Adverb (ii) Adjective
(iii) Preposition (iv) Noun
- (f) Down with the tyrant!
(i) Preposition (ii) Noun
(iii) Adjective (iv) Verb
- (g) I can shift for myself
(i) Adverb (ii) Conjunction
(iii) Preposition (iv) Verb
- (h) He went away after they had left.
(i) Preposition (ii) Adjective
(iii) Verb (iv) Conjunction
- (i) I have had enough of this.
(i) Noun (ii) Adjective
(iii) Pronoun (iv) Preposition
- (j) There is little danger in going there.
(i) Conjunction (ii) Adverb
(iii) Adjective (iv) Noun

6. Analyze the sentences and pick out the correct answer from the given options: **(10×1=10)**

- (a) I like you no less than him.
(i) Simple Sentence (ii) Complex Sentence
(iii) Compound Sentence
- (b) He put on his hat and went outside.
(i) Simple Sentence (ii) Complex Sentence
(iii) Compound Sentence
- (c) Keep quiet or you will be punished.
(i) Simple Sentence (ii) Complex Sentence
(iii) Compound Sentence
- (d) Mary and Jane took the bus.
(i) Simple Sentence (ii) Complex Sentence
(iii) Compound Sentence
- (e) Unless you do this, you will be punished.
(i) Simple Sentence (ii) Complex Sentence
(iii) Compound Sentence
- (f) It was too late for retreat.
(i) Simple Sentence (ii) Complex Sentence
(iii) Compound Sentence
- (g) A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid.
(i) Simple Sentence (ii) Complex Sentence
(iii) Compound Sentence

- (h) The lion was wounded, but not killed.
(i) Simple Sentence (ii) Complex Sentence
(iii) Compound Sentence
- (i) I make a promise only to keep it.
(i) Simple Sentence (ii) Complex Sentence
(iii) Compound Sentence
- (j) They rejoice that they are going.
(i) Simple Sentence (ii) Complex Sentence
(iii) Compound Sentence

7. Change the 'Voice' of the following sentences.

(10×1=10)

- (a) It fascinated me.
(b) They rejected his proposal and laughed at him.
(c) Duty must be done.
(d) You will be robbed if you are not careful.
(e) He chose his words with care.
(f) I was most rudely answered in the shop.
(g) You must do your duty.
(h) I was asked to wait.
(i) I was not told the truth about the situation.
(j) No one has climbed this mountain before.

8. Fill in the blanks by choosing the correct pair of words:

(5×1=5)

- (a) The leaders were _____ needed by those to _____ they addressed.
(i) readily, which (ii) rarely, when
(iii) scarcely, whom (iv) joyfully, where
- (b) They wanted to _____ all these books, but could not find _____ time to do so.
(i) cover, almost (ii) pursue, necessary
(iii) dispose, some (iv) read, sufficient
- (c) The candidate's _____ at the polls was _____ as he won with a striking margin.
(i) claim, unrealistic (ii) victory, overwhelming
(iii) image, real (iv) strategy, unsuccessful
- (d) In _____ of international matters, there is always an element of risk in _____ one might do.
(i) case, whatever (ii) defence, wrong
(iii) view, whichever (iv) many, doing
- (e) The bandit _____ the traveller of his purse and _____ him grievously.
(i) snatched, hurt (ii) stole, injured
(iii) demanded, beat (iv) robbed, wounded

9. Choose the word nearest in meaning to the underlined words:

(5×1=5)

(a) Indians exhibited a remarkable solidarity at the time of war.

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| (i) coalition | (ii) unification |
| (iii) cooperation | (iv) unity |

(b) His impeccable style caught the attention of all critics.

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| (i) faultless | (ii) upright |
| (iii) inoffensive | (iv) harmless |

(c) We should not look down on people who are not educated.

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| (i) dislike | (ii) disown |
| (iii) despise | (iv) denounce |

(d) The perpetual noise made it impossible for them to concentrate on the problem.

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| (i) irritating | (ii) recurrent |
| (iii) constant | (iv) intermittent |

(e) The prisoners of war signed the document under coercion.

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|-------------------|----------------|
| (i) compulsion | (ii) confusion |
| (iii) supervision | (iv) security |

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