

MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF FOREST RANGER UNDER ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS & CLIMATE CHANGE DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM, JUNE, 2024

GENERAL ENGLISH - I

Time Allowed : 3 hours

Full Marks : 100

*Marks for each question is indicated against it.
Attempt all questions.*

1. Write an essay on any 1 (one) of the topics given below: (25)
- Challenges of forest conservation
 - Pollution and its control mechanism
 - Reservation Policy in India

2. Make a précis of the given passage in about one-third of its original length. Supply a suitable title. (15)

A complete reading program, therefore, should include four factors: at least one good book each week, a newspaper or news magazine, magazines of comment and interpretation, and book reviews. If you keep feeding your intelligence with these four foods, you can be sure that your brain cells will be properly nourished. To this must be added the digestive process that comes from your thinking and from discussion with individuals or groups. It is often desirable to make books that you own personally part of your mind by underlining or by marking in the margin the more important statements. This will help you to understand the book as you first read it, because out of the mass details you must have selected the essential ideas. It will help you to remember better the gist of the book, since the physical act of underlining, with your eyes on the page, tends to put the thought more firmly into your brain cells. It will save time whenever you need to refer to the book.

Above all, never forget that creative intelligence is correlation of facts and ideas, not mere memorizing. What counts is what you can do with your knowledge, by linking it with other things you have studied or observed. If you read Plutarch's life of Julius Caesar, think how his rise to political power paralleled the technique of Adolf Hitler or that of your local political boss. If you read a play by Shakespeare, think how his portrayal of the characters helps you to understand someone you know.

In everything you read, keep at the back of your mind what it means to your life here and now, how it supports or challenges the things you were taught in school, in church and at home, and how the wisdom you get from books can guide you in your thinking, in your career, in your voting as a citizen and in your personal morals.

3. Write a letter to the Editor of an English daily of your choice stating reasons why use of plastic bags should be banned. (15)

OR

Draft a notification on the appointment of Shri ABC to the post of a Forest Ranger under Environment, Forests, and Climate Change Department.

4. Make sentences with *any seven* of the following idioms and phrases: (7×2=14)
- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| (a) Bury the hatchet | (b) Close shave |
| (c) At the spur of a moment | (d) An uphill task |
| (e) In black and white | (f) In a nutshell |
| (g) Blow one's trumpet | (h) In doldrums |
| (i) Kith and kin | (j) Spill the beans |

5. Expand the idea contained in *any three* of the following sentences: (3×5=15)
- (a) Rome was not built in a day
 - (b) Beggars cannot be choosers
 - (c) A stitch in time saves nine
 - (d) Necessity is the mother of invention
 - (e) To err is Human, to forgive is Divine

6. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions given thereafter :

I went to bed with mixed feelings about the rainy day. Though it had initially started well with the cool breezes and the droplets outside my window, getting to school was an uncomfortable experience. During the free periods we missed the bright sunshine when we used to run about in the playground. Towards the evening, the electricity went off for a few hours and I could not do my homework. The next day the papers reported that many people faced hardships while travelling. Trains are delayed and taxis were charging higher rates than usual at the station. But there are different seasons so we may be in touch with the rhythm of nature. It also makes it possible for us to appreciate what we otherwise take for granted.

The rain and rainy days affect people in different ways at different times. Alexander Frater's book *Chasing the Monsoon* gives a graphic account of the way the monsoon affects people's lives across India. In places which have a heavy monsoon, rainy days are a way of life and people prepare for the season by stocking up provisions and buying rain gear. However, in recent times the rain has been playing truant. With climate change staring us in the face globally, it could well be that the beauty of the rain will be a thing of the past.

Questions:

- (a) Mention three problems that the writer faced during a rainy day. (3)
- (b) What difficulties did the newspaper report the next day? (3)
- (c) Explain: (3×2=6)
 - (i) Mixed feelings
 - (ii) Rhythm of nature
 - (iii) Graphic account
- (d) How do people living in areas with heavy monsoon prepare for it? (3)
- (e) Find a word in the passage which is similar in meaning to "at the beginning". (1)