

**MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**  
**TECHNICAL COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR**  
**JUNIOR GRADE OF MIZORAM ENGINEERING SERVICE (COMBINED)**  
**UNDER VARIOUS DEPARTMENT,**  
**GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM, JULY-2024**

**GENERAL ENGLISH**

Time Allowed : 3 hours

FM : 100

*Marks for each question is indicated against it.*

*Attempt all questions.*

1. Write an essay on any one of the given topics: (20)
- Ethical Implications of Artificial Intelligence.
  - The Role of Media in Shaping Public Opinion and Policy.
  - Urbanization and sustainable development- challenges & opportunities.
  - The importance of continuous learning and professional development.

2. Write a précis of the following passage and give a suitable title: (20)

The integration of technology in education has ushered in a new era of learning, offering unprecedented access to information, personalized instruction, and collaborative tools. However, the digital divide persists, with disparities in access to technology and digital literacy exacerbating existing inequalities in education. Today, there is a need to investigate the multifaceted impact of technology on education, exploring its potential to enhance student engagement, improve learning outcomes and foster creativity and critical thinking skills. There is also the need to examine the challenges of digital inclusion, such as unequal access to devices and internet connectivity and propose strategies to bridge the divide and ensure equitable access to quality education for all learners. By leveraging technology as a catalyst for innovation and inclusion, education systems can empower learners to thrive in the digital age and contribute to a more equitable and prosperous society.

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

The Government's approval for the 100 smart cities project and a new urban renewal mission is an important first step toward dealing with an old problem that has only got progressively worse over the years: urban livability. A shade less than a third of India's population now lives in urban areas, overcrowded cities and towns with infrastructure bursting at the seams. This problem will only worsen with little or no intervention happening. The proportion of the urban population can only go in one direction — upward — as more Indians migrate to the cities and towns in search of jobs. Cities are engines of growth, and as a result attract a lot of people. The country's urban population contributes over 60 per cent of India's GDP; in 15 years this will be 70 per cent. On the other hand, there is little incentive for people to migrate out of cities. Earlier attempts at providing better urban infrastructure or at creating new townships have not been able to deal with the issue of livability satisfactorily. Even successful special economic zones have had to contend with the issue of lack of social infrastructure, which usually means access to avenues of education, health, arts, sports, and so on. There are numerous definitions of a smart city but the current government's idea of one usefully encompasses institutional infrastructure (governance), physical infrastructure, as also social infrastructure.

The Cabinet approval marks the first of many steps, as also the easiest, that will be required for the project. The challenges start now. Of course there is no doubt that this has created tremendous enthusiasm amongst many possible stakeholders, including service providers who have been part of smart city projects elsewhere in the world. Countries such as Japan, Singapore and Germany, among many others, have evinced interest to be a part of this. Yet, in its scale and complexity the project will be second to none. The official estimate of per capita investment requirement is Rs.43386 for a 20-year period, or a total investment of Rs.7 lakh crore. Creating a smart city isn't just about creating the physical infrastructure — roads, clean water, power, transport and so on, things India finds difficult to deliver to its citizens nearly seven decades after Independence. It is hoped that public private partnerships (PPP) will deliver but the mechanism seems to need a lot of tweaking in order for it to work, a fact acknowledged in the recent Budget. The big challenge will be to create self-sustaining cities, which create jobs, use resources wisely and also train people. This also means more autonomy for these cities. Whether that can happen is a moot question depending heavily on the maturity of the Indian political system.

- (a) According to the passage, in which direction is the proportion of urban population in future moving? (4)
- (b) What is it that Special Economic Zones are deficient in? (4)
- (c) What is the Government's plan for a smart city? (4)
- (d) Which facilities need to be made available along with the physical infrastructure to develop a smart city? (4)
- (e) Which kind of mechanism is required for the success of the Smart City Plan? (4)

4. Choose the correct synonym of the words given : (5×1=5)

- (a) alter - modify/ verify/ justify/ edify
- (b) mitigate - deviate/ elevate/ alleviate/ delegate
- (c) elucidate - clarify/ nullify/ reject/ subject
- (d) perceive - concern/assert/ deceive/ discern
- (e) robust - strong/ long/ high/ low

5. Choose the correct antonym of the words given - (5×1=5)

- (a) defective - functional/ integral/ positive/ negative.
- (b) inaccurate- precise/ exercise/ excise/ exhort
- (c) static- dynamic/ ceramic/ dyslectic/ drastic
- (d) isolated- integrated/ polluted/ dusted/ gusted
- (e) immobile- mobile/ gentle/ genteel/ mopped.

6. Identify the grammatical error and rewrite the given sentences. (10×1=10)

- (a) The property was divided among the two brothers.
- (b) The team have been practising for the tournament next week.
- (c) Me and him went to the store.
- (d) The dog's wagging it's tail.
- (e) We was planning to go on vacation.
- (f) He gave me an advice.
- (g) Fifteen minutes are allowed to each speaker.
- (h) Neither food nor water were to be found there.
- (i) Each of these substances are found in India.
- (j) The horse and carriage are at the door.

7. Choose the correct one-word substitute and use it in a sentence: (10×1=10)
- (a) A place where dead bodies are kept for post mortem. (*Mortuary / Morgue*)
  - (b) One who has long experience of any occupation. (*Amateur / Veteran*)
  - (c) A critical judge of any art or craft. (*Connoisseur / Cynosure*)
  - (d) A leader of people who sways his followers by his oratory. (*Demagogue / Polyglot*)
  - (e) One who talks continuously. (*Loquacious / Iconoclast*)
  - (f) One who hates marriage. (*Misologist / Misogamist*)
  - (g) One who sneers at the aims and beliefs of his fellowmen. (*Cynic / Novice*)
  - (h) Official formality resulting in excessive delay. (*Referendum / Red-tapism*)
  - (i) Holding office without any remuneration. (*Anomaly / Honorary*)
  - (j) One who leads an austere life. (*Ascetic / Apostate*)

8. Make sentences with (*any five*) the given homophones to show their differences: (5×2=10)
- |                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| (a) Soul / Sole     | (b) Coarse / Course  |
| (c) Access / Excess | (d) Callous / Callus |
| (e) Sear / Seer     | (f) Heal / Heel      |
| (g) Team / Teem     |                      |

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