

MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

MIZORAM GROUP 'B' (GAZETTED) GENERAL SERVICES (COMBINED COMPETITIVE) EXAMINATIONS 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. Read the passage below and write a précis giving a suitable title. (14)

Hospitality is a virtue for which the natives of the East in general are highly and deservedly admired; and the people of Egypt are well entitled to commendation on this account. A word which signifies literally "a person on a journey" ("musafir") is the term most commonly employed in this country in the sense of a visitor or guest. There are very few persons here who would think of sitting down to a meal, if there were a stranger in the house without inviting him to partake of it unless the latter were a menial; in which case, he would be invited to eat with the servants. It would be considered a shameful violation of good manners if a Muslim abstained from ordering the table to be prepared at the usual time because a visitor happened to be present. Persons of the middle classes in this country, if living in a retired situation, sometimes take their supper before the door of their house, and invite every passenger of respectable appearance to eat with them. This is very commonly done among the lower order. In cities and large towns, claims on hospitality are unfrequent; as there are many *wekalehs*, or *khans*, where strangers may obtain lodging; and food is very easily procured; but in the villages, travellers are often lodged and entertained by the *Sheykh* or some other inhabitant; and if the guest be a person of the middle or higher classes, or even not very poor he gives a present to his host's servants, or to the host himself. In the desert, however, a present is seldom received from a guest. By a *Sunneh* law, a traveller may claim entertainment from a person able to afford it to him, for three days.

2. Attempt any one of the questions given below: (10×1=10)

- Write a letter to the Transport Director for re-issuing your driving license as you have recently misplaced the original copy.
- You are XYZ of C-79, Luangmual, Aizawl, Mizoram who is interested in doing a short term course in computer programming. Write a letter to the Director, NIELIT, Zuangtui, Aizawl, Mizoram inquiring about the duration of such a course and the terms and conditions for admission.

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

Graduation is only a milestone in life's journey. It does not mark the end of the road in education. In a very real sense, it is the commencement time, the beginning of a new journey which will test the toughness of your mental and moral fibre, the efficiency of your university training. The new experiences, the new problems and the new situation will demand from you the exercise of qualities for whose fostering the university functions. The future will give the power and responsibilities to you.

The historic role of large educated classes, in the building up of a new India cannot be over-estimated. If a leader is one who knows where he is going, who has a firm grasp of the insights and intuitions which have made our civilization so enduring, and who can harness them to every aspect of life, it is only the universities that can train men for leadership. The universities are more than institutions for higher learning and professional training; they are called upon to educate the younger generation, form its character and create a new type of intellectual leader. Delivering quality education to students is essential for fostering a more prosperous and resilient nation.

- (a) Give a suitable title for the passage above. (2)
- (b) Give the central idea of the given passage. (2)
- (c) What is the role of young students in the national life? (2)
- (d) Use the word 'harness' both as a noun and as a verb? (2)
- (e) Find words in the passage which are similar in meaning to the words given below: (2×1=2)
 - (i) achievement
 - (ii) thriving

4. Identify the Parts of speech of the underlined words in the given sentences. (10×1=10)

- (a) Although I love to cook, I hardly have time for it.
 - (i) Preposition
 - (ii) Conjunction
 - (iii) Noun
 - (iv) Adverb
- (b) The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy brown dog.
 - (i) Noun
 - (ii) Adverb
 - (iii) Adjective
 - (iv) Preposition
- (c) He still lives in that house.
 - (i) Adverb
 - (ii) Adjective
 - (iii) Preposition
 - (iv) Conjunction
- (d) Stella appeared in a costly array.
 - (i) Noun
 - (ii) Verb
 - (iii) Adverb
 - (iv) Adjective
- (e) She succumbed to the burns she received in the terrifying accident.
 - (i) Adjective
 - (ii) Preposition
 - (iii) Verb
 - (iv) Adverb
- (f) The thief was killed in a police encounter.
 - (i) Adverb
 - (ii) Adjective
 - (iii) Noun
 - (iv) Interjection
- (g) This is my friend who lives in Aizawl.
 - (i) Personal Pronoun
 - (ii) Indefinite Pronoun
 - (iii) Demonstrative Pronoun
 - (iv) Reflexive pronoun
- (h) I always get up at six in the morning and my mother gets up earlier.
 - (i) Adverb
 - (ii) Verb
 - (iii) Adjective
 - (iv) Preposition
- (i) The car is very beautiful.
 - (i) Adverb
 - (ii) Adjective
 - (iii) Verb
 - (iv) Noun

- (j) Wow! That is a beautiful dress indeed
- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| (i) Conjunction | (ii) Interjection |
| (iii) Pronoun | (iv) Verb |

5. Rewrite the following sentences as directed. (10×1=10)

- (a) She is too poor to clear her fees. *(Pick out the adverb in the sentence)*
- (b) The (Jury/Juries) found him guilty. *(Choose the correct form)*
- (c) Time changes all things. *(Pick out the verb in the sentence)*
- (d) (Tiding/Tidings) came very late. *(Choose the correct form)*
- (e) _____ is next to godliness. *(Supply a suitable noun)*
- (f) Hello! What are you doing there? *(Name the part of speech of the underlined word)*
- (g) Most men live to the age of three (score/scores) and ten. *(Choose the correct form)*
- (h) Every/Either dog has his day. *(Choose the correct adjective)*
- (i) (Dozen/Dozens) of men were injured. *(Choose the correct form)*
- (j) Pray and give (thank/thanks) to God that you have been saved. *(Choose the correct form)*

6. Choose an appropriate preposition from the options provided at the end of each question. (10×1=10)

- (a) I expressed my abhorrence _____ flattery.
- | | |
|----------|---------|
| (i) to | (ii) at |
| (iii) of | (iv) in |
- (b) The bird flew _____ the roof, soaring high in the sky.
- | | |
|------------|------------|
| (i) upon | (ii) above |
| (iii) over | (iv) on |
- (c) He was acquitted _____ all charges.
- | | |
|----------|---------|
| (i) to | (ii) of |
| (iii) in | (iv) on |
- (d) We are confident _____ winning the game.
- | | |
|----------|---------|
| (i) of | (ii) at |
| (iii) in | (iv) on |
- (e) I have decided _____ my course of action.
- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| (i) on | (ii) upon |
| (iii) at | (iv) in |
- (f) He excelled _____ painting.
- | | |
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| (i) in | (ii) at |
| (iii) on | (iv) for |
- (g) The letter must be mailed _____ Monday.
- | | |
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| (i) on | (ii) until |
| (iii) by | (iv) at |
- (h) He is intent _____ repeating his attempt.
- | | |
|----------|---------|
| (i) at | (ii) in |
| (iii) on | (iv) of |

- (i) Henry is very sparing _____ expenditure.
(i) of (ii) at
(iii) in (iv) under
- (j) We have full confidence _____ you and your abilities.
(i) with (ii) in
(iii) on (iv) upon

7. Fill in the blanks in the following sentences with appropriate verbs from those given in brackets against each sentence: (10×1=10)

- (a) Neither of these men _____ come here before. (has/have)
(b) The jury _____ given its decision. (has/have)
(c) Mary as well as her sisters _____ coming today. (are/is)
(d) Five hundred rupees _____ a big sum for a poor man. (are/is)
(e) He is one of the greatest leaders that _____ ever lived. (has/have)
(f) Many a beggar _____ here. (sleep/sleeps)
(g) The horse and carriage _____ at the door. (stand/stands)
(h) You or Raymond _____ to blame. (is/are)
(i) Each of these substances _____ found in India. (are/is)
(j) Every man, woman and child _____ glad. (was/were)

8. Fill in the blanks with the correct forms of the verbs given in the brackets. Select the answer from the given options. (6×1=6)

- (a) Every Friday, Mr. John _____ (drive) his kids to the park.
(i) is driving (ii) drove
(iii) drives (iv) has been driving
- (b) John arrived at Mary's house a little before 9:00 P.M. but she was not there. She _____ (study, at the library).
(i) studied at the library (ii) has been studying at the library
(iii) had studied at the library (iv) was studying at the library
- (c) The Titanic _____ (cross) the Atlantic when it struck an iceberg.
(i) crosses (ii) had been crossing
(iii) crossed (iv) was crossing
- (d) We _____ (be) there for more than half an hour by the time the show began.
(i) had been (ii) were
(iii) have been (iv) are being
- (e) When I arrived home last night, I discovered that my wife _____ (prepare) a delicious dinner.
(i) had prepared (ii) have prepared
(iii) has prepared (iv) prepared
- (f) The children _____ (cheer) loudly during the game.
(i) cheers (ii) cheer
(iii) was cheering (iv) will cheered

9. Change the sentences as directed. (10×1=10)

- (a) Everyone admires an honest man. (*Into a Complex Sentence*)
- (b) He speaks as if he were a boy of ten. (*Into a Simple sentence*)
- (c) Despite being depressed, he makes the most out of his life. (*Into a Compound sentence*)
- (d) Sugar sells cheap. (*Change the voice*)
- (e) It is now time to close the shop. (*Change the voice*)
- (f) Is it not a wise step? (*Into assertive sentence*)
- (g) Everyone was hopeful. (*Into negative sentence*)
- (h) It is a matter of praise that you have done well. (*Into exclamatory sentence*)
- (i) One can't change one's nature. (*Into interrogative sentence*)
- (j) How fast she reads! (*Into assertive sentence*)

10. Identify the kind of phrase/clause of the following sentences: (10×1=10)

- (a) I often wonder how you are getting on with him.
- (b) He told a story that sounds untrue.
- (c) Birds of a feather flock together.
- (d) What she worries about is the general decline in American language learning skills.
- (e) The swallows will return to the country whence such birds migrate.
- (f) I do not understand how it all happened.
- (g) I know that Latin is no longer spoken as a native language.
- (h) The general feared that he would be surrounded.
- (i) Beyond a doubt this man is honest.
- (j) I do not know what to do.

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