

**MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**  
**LIMITED DEPARTMENTAL EXAMINATIONS FOR PROMOTION TO**  
**ASSISTANT GRADE & UPPER DIVISIONAL CLERK (UDC)**  
**UNDER DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS (SSW)**  
**& VARIOUS DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM. OCTOBER-2024**

**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 (1)* of the following : **(20)**
- Politics and religion
  - Preservation of Mizo culture alongside modernization
  - Altruism as a practice within the society
  - The effects of monsoon, good or bad in Mizoram

2. Write a precis of the following passage, condensing the original by about one-third of its original length. **(15)**

More people streamed across Europe's borders than during any crisis since World War II following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February. As of early December, approximately 7.8 million Ukrainians had been forced elsewhere on the continent, mostly to the European Union, but with 2.9 million heading to Russia. Sizeable numbers went farther afield including to North America and even countries with traditionally limited humanitarian protection regimes, such as Japan. Combined with other events in 2022, including conflict and food insecurity in Burkina Faso and post-coup violence in Myanmar, Russia's invasion pushed the number of displaced people globally above 100 million—up from 89 million the year before.

The response to the crisis, particularly in the European Union, was exceptionally welcoming. While Ukraine is not an EU Member State, its citizens were able to enter the bloc visa-free for up to 90 days pre-invasion, easing the path for millions fleeing violence. Quickly after the war began, EU leaders for the first time invoked the bloc's Temporary Protection Directive offering displaced Ukrainians residence and rights to work, education, and benefits.

Outside Europe, the embrace was also warm. The United States announced a program allowing U.S. residents to sponsor Ukrainians, resulting in travel authorization for 121,000; permitted approximately 56,000 already in the country to remain under Temporary Protected Status; and granted access to thousands more who arrived seeking asylum at the U.S.-Mexico border. Canada similarly approved more than 451,000 emergency temporary visas.

3. Draft a letter to the editor of your local newspaper your views on the current Burmese refugee situation in Mizoram. **(15)**

4. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate verb or form of the words in brackets:

(5×1=5)

- (a) Samantha always \_\_\_\_\_ (eat) rice for breakfast every morning.  
(i) eats (ii) eating  
(iii) eat (iv) eaten
- (b) The little boy had \_\_\_\_\_ (kick) the ball into the woods.  
(i) kick (ii) kicked  
(iii) kicking (iv) kicks
- (c) One must always \_\_\_\_\_ (abide) by the rules.  
(i) abide (ii) abides  
(iii) abode (iv) abiding
- (d) Does your father \_\_\_\_\_ (approve) of you having a girlfriend?  
(i) approved (ii) approving  
(iii) approve (iv) approves
- (e) I must \_\_\_\_\_ (admit), I am not qualified for this job.  
(i) admitting (ii) admits  
(iii) admitted (iv) admit

5. Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate words among the choices given below:

(5×1=5)

- (a) How long do you plan on \_\_\_\_\_ the dough?  
(i) kneading (ii) need  
(iii) needing (iv) knead
- (b) He got into a physical \_\_\_\_\_ the last time he was drunk.  
(i) altercation (ii) allocation  
(iii) adjacent (iv) advent
- (c) They say the cause of death was blunt force \_\_\_\_\_.  
(i) dogma (ii) sigma  
(iii) enigma (iv) trauma
- (d) The \_\_\_\_\_ revealed that the victim had been dead for weeks.  
(i) heresy (ii) intimacy  
(iii) fallacy (iv) autopsy
- (e) Many cultures have been lost to \_\_\_\_\_.  
(i) articulation (ii) assimilation  
(iii) invigoration (iv) laceration

6. Make sentences on *any five (5)* pairs of words to bring out their differences:

(5×2=10)

- (a) cell, sell (b) check, cheque  
(c) aloud, allowed (d) air, heir  
(e) descent, dissent (f) altar, alter  
(g) cache, cash

7. Rewrite the following sentences as directed: (5×1=5)
- (a) Mary said, "Please do not litter around the house". *(to indirect speech)*
  - (b) I'm doing my chores. *(change the voice)*
  - (c) Julia was the reason the video went viral. *(change the voice)*
  - (d) I will see you tomorrow. *(change to interrogative)*
  - (e) Daphne said that she really loves the colour blue. *(to direct speech)*
8. Make sentences with the following idioms and phrases: (5×1=5)
- (a) Set the record straight
  - (b) Cold feet
  - (c) Kill two birds with one stone
  - (d) Bite the bullet
  - (e) Pretty penny

**Direction (Question Nos. 9-14) : Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:**

You have probably heard of MC behaviour – or perhaps even witnessed it online or in person. A TikToker and her followers physically push aside those inconvenient extras 'ruining' their selfies and then post their grievances on social media. A man on a crowded subway watches a loud sports broadcast without headphones while ignoring other commuters' requests to turn it down a bit. This is no mere rudeness: in the narrowly circumscribed world of main characters, the rest of us are merely the insignificant ghosts who happen to intrude on their spaces. Akin to chess pieces, or perhaps to animatronic figures, we have agency only in the development of the MC's story. In current parlance, we are non-player characters (or NPCs) – a term that originated in traditional tabletop games to describe characters not controlled by a player but rather by the 'dungeon master'. In video games, NPCs are characters with a predetermined (or algorithmically determined) set of behaviours controlled by the computer. Rather than agents with a will and intent, NPCs are there to help the MC in his quest, to intersect with the MC in preset ways, or to simply remain silent – a kind of prop, or perhaps human-shaped furniture, a part of the scenery. Another way to view NPCs is to imagine what the philosopher David Chalmers calls a philosophical zombie, or p-zombie, a being that, while physically identical to a normal human being, does not have conscious experience. If a p-zombie laughs, it's not because it finds anything funny – its behaviour is purely imitative of the real (main character!) individual. For someone convinced of their MC identity, the rest of us are, perhaps, just so many zombies.

While Chalmers's p-zombie is a part of a philosophical hypothetical concerned with the nature of mind and consciousness, the non-philosophical take on people as NPCs is deeply morally worrying. Having taught and written for a number of years in the areas of ethics and moral psychology, one of the central ideas that I have tried to explain and make more vivid is that morality is something that we do together, that our ideas about who we are require each other's engaged participation, and that an empathetic openness not only to each other's moral agency, but to each other's emotional states, is central to our shared lifeworld. We must see others as fully human, and be engaged with each other as moral beings to understand who *we* are, and who we are in relation to others and to the world.

But the main character narrative denies all these possibilities. It is destructive to views of human beings as fundamentally relational and interdependent, and poses a threat to two important experiences of being human: the first is connection to others; the second is love.

To counter objections that my worries are a simple case of generational misalignment – a confused Gen Xer misunderstanding Gen Z perspectives – I suggest that MCS is dangerous precisely because it seems to be no passing fad, and is not limited to any one generation’s political perspective, or social group – indeed, its influence extends far beyond TikTok, and is found within the business world, in academia and in the halls of power.

9. Give a brief description on MC behaviour. (3)
10. What is an NPC? (3)
11. What is a p-Zombie? (3)
12. What are the possibilities denied by MC behaviour. (3)
13. How exactly is MCS or MC behaviour dangerous (3)
14. Make sentences with the following words to show their meaning (any five) (5)
  - (a) grievances
  - (b) animatronic
  - (c) conscious
  - (d) traditional
  - (e) imitative
  - (f) empathetic

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