

**MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**  
**COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION FOR**  
**STENOGRAPHER GRADE-III UNDER DP&AR (SSW),**  
**GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM, NOVEMBER-2024**

**GENERAL ENGLISH**

Time Allowed : 3 hours

FM : 100  
PM : 40

**SECTION - A (40 Marks)**

*Marks for each question is indicated against it.*

*This Section should be answered only on the Answer Sheet provided.*

1. Write an essay on *any one* of the topic. (25)
- The benefits of bilingual education
  - Effects of growing pollution in rivers
  - Advantages of technology in everyday life

2. Write a précis of the following passage in about a third of its length: (15)

A majority of Indians prefer to use the internet for accessing banking and other financial services than shopping online, shows a new survey.

Almost 57% of Indian respondents using the internet prefer to bank online and use other financial services due to hassel-free access and time saving feature of online banking according to the survey.

Checking information on products and services online comes a close second at 53% while 50% shop for products online. The fourth on the list - around 42% of respondents in India surfed online to look for jobs, the survey said. Online banking has made things much easier for the people and it saves a lot of time.

It has eliminated the problems associated with traditional way of banking where one has to stand in a queue and fill up several forms. Most of the banks in India have introduced customer-friendly online banking facility with advanced security features to protect customers against cybercrime.

The easy registration process for net banking has improved customers' access to several banking products increased customer loyalty, facilitated money transfer to any bank across India and has help banks-attract new customers. The Indian results closely track the global trends as well conducted among 19216 people from 24 countries, the survey showed that banking and keeping track of finances and searching for jobs are the main tasks of internet users around the globe.

Overall, 60% of people surveyed used the web to check their bank account and other financial assets in the past 90 days, making it the most popular use of the internet globally. Shopping was not too far behind at 48%, the survey showed and 41% went online in search of a job in terms of country preferences, almost 90% of respondents in Sweden use e-banking.

Online banking has also caught on in a big way in nations like France, Canada, Australia, Poland, South Africa and Belgium, the survey showed. The Germans and British come on top for using online shopping with 74% of respondents in both countries having bought something online in the past three months. They are followed by 68% of respondents in Sweden, 65% in US and 62% in South Korea.

**SECTION - B (60 Marks)**

*All questions carry equal mark of 1 each. Attempt all questions.*

*This Section should be answered only on the OMR Response Sheet provided.*

**Directions (Question Nos. 1 - 10) : Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate Preposition given below each sentence:**

1. There is no exception \_\_\_\_\_ this rule.  
(a) to (b) with  
(c) for (d) about
2. A good judge never gropes \_\_\_\_\_ the conclusion.  
(a) to (b) on  
(c) over (d) for
3. My voice reverberated \_\_\_\_\_ the walls of the castle.  
(a) through (b) with  
(c) from (d) across
4. He dispensed \_\_\_\_\_ the services of his dishonest clerk.  
(a) of (b) with  
(c) at (d) on
5. There is no hindrance \_\_\_\_\_ his going there.  
(a) over (b) on  
(c) at (d) to
6. They partook \_\_\_\_\_ our food and were satisfied.  
(a) of (b) with  
(c) about (d) from
7. The event came \_\_\_\_\_ as he had predicted.  
(a) up (b) off  
(c) about (d) by
8. He will abide \_\_\_\_\_ his friend David in all circumstances.  
(a) along (b) with  
(c) by (d) to
9. The fly came in \_\_\_\_\_ the door.  
(a) from (b) by  
(c) through (d) at
10. I'd be glad \_\_\_\_\_ some help.  
(a) by (b) of  
(c) with (d) for

**Directions (Question Nos. 11 - 16): Out of the four alternatives given, choose the one which is opposite in meaning of the underlined word or phrase:**

11. Please show clemency to the defeated army.  
(a) mercy (b) leniency  
(c) callousness (d) kindness

12. The usual adulation of officers must end.  
(a) back-biting (b) condemnation  
(c) flattery (d) praise
13. I was deeply affected by his urbane behaviour.  
(a) rural (b) indifferent  
(c) rude (d) calm
14. There is rancour between the two friends.  
(a) animosity (b) enmity  
(c) devotion (d) harmony
15. He was assigned an arduous task.  
(a) easy (b) difficult  
(c) good (d) tricky
16. She always gives laconic answers.  
(a) lingering (b) terse  
(c) copious (d) brief

**Directions (Question Nos. 17 - 21): Choose the correct option which best agrees with the subject of the following sentences:**

17. Abigail is the one \_\_\_\_\_ they asked to make the dress.  
(a) who (b) which  
(c) whose (d) whom
18. What is needed \_\_\_\_\_ not big houses but small cottages.  
(a) is (b) are  
(c) were (d) was
19. No student and teacher \_\_\_\_\_ present.  
(a) were (b) are  
(c) was (d) have
20. It was \_\_\_\_\_ that called you here.  
(a) I (b) me  
(c) myself (d) mine
21. \_\_\_\_\_ of our trainees pays his tuition fee at the beginning of the month.  
(a) Every (b) All  
(c) Either (d) Each

**Directions (Question Nos. 22 - 29): Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate form of the verbs given:**

22. The bus \_\_\_\_\_ by the time we reach the station.  
(a) will leave (b) will have left  
(c) had left (d) has left
23. After they \_\_\_\_\_ the work, they slept soundly.  
(a) had finished (b) have finished  
(c) finished (d) finish
24. That man \_\_\_\_\_ at the bus stop for the last half hour.  
(a) stands (b) has stood  
(c) is standing (d) has been standing

25. Shall I tell him that the bus \_\_\_\_\_ ?  
(a) is gone (b) has gone  
(c) is going (d) went
26. I \_\_\_\_\_ him this morning.  
(a) never met (b) have not met  
(c) did not meet (d) had not met
27. The murderer \_\_\_\_\_ the corpse down the stairs when he heard a knock on the door.  
(a) carries (b) had carried  
(c) carried (d) was carrying
28. We'd better go out tomorrow because Mary \_\_\_\_\_ the piano all day.  
(a) will be practising (b) will practise  
(c) will have been practising (d) will have practised
29. I \_\_\_\_\_ the instructions but I do not understand them.  
(a) have read (b) read  
(c) will read (d) had read

**Directions (Question Nos. 30 - 35): Choose the word or phrase which is nearest in meaning to the key word given:**

30. Sporadic  
(a) whirlwind (b) epidemic  
(c) stagnant (d) occasional
31. Didactic  
(a) blunt (b) in poetic metre  
(c) of the nature of teaching (d) direct
32. Histrionic  
(a) historically important (b) hypersensitive  
(c) overdramatic (d) inactive
33. Respite  
(a) short break (b) fatigue  
(c) ill will (d) reform
34. Privy  
(a) cautious (b) secretive  
(c) dishonest (d) quiet
35. Ingenuous  
(a) misleading (b) naive  
(c) creative (d) false

**Directions (Question Nos. 36 - 40): Out of the four alternatives given, choose the one which best expresses the same meaning in Direct/Indirect Speech:**

36. I said that she had finished her work.  
(a) I said, "She finished her work" (b) I said, "She finishes her work"  
(c) I said, "She has finished her work" (d) I said, "She is finishing her work"

37. He said, "Hello, what are you doing?"  
(a) He greeted and asked me what I was doing  
(b) He greeted and asked me what I had been doing  
(c) He greeted and asked me what I have been doing  
(d) He greeted and asked me what I am doing
38. The girls said that the teacher had not come.  
(a) The girls said, "The teacher have not come" (b) The girls said, "The teacher did not come"  
(c) The girls said, "The teacher is not coming" (d) The girls said, "The teacher was not coming"
39. I said to her, "Did you go away last year?"  
(a) I asked her if she went away the previous year  
(b) I told her whether she had gone away last year  
(c) I asked her that she had gone away the previous year  
(d) I asked her whether she had gone away the previous year
40. He told me that it had been raining all day.  
(a) He said, "It had rained all day" (b) He said to me, "It is raining all day"  
(c) He said to me, "It was raining all day" (d) He said to me, "It had been raining all day"

**Directions (Question Nos. 41 - 45): Identify the correct notion expressed by each of the following sentences by choosing one of the alternatives given:**

41. He said to me, "Please give me the address"  
(a) Assertive Sentence (b) Affirmative Sentence  
(c) Interrogative Sentence (d) Imperative Sentence
42. Douglas had an aversion to water.  
(a) Assertive Sentence (b) Affirmative Sentence  
(c) Optative Sentence (d) Imperative Sentence
43. May you live long.  
(a) Affirmative Sentence (b) Exclamatory Sentence  
(c) Optative Sentence (d) Imperative Sentence
44. He lives in an apartment building.  
(a) Declaratory Sentence (b) Affirmative Sentence  
(c) Exclamatory Sentence (d) Imperative Sentence
45. I love my country.  
(a) Declaratory Sentence (b) Exclamatory Sentence  
(c) Optative Sentence (d) Affirmative Sentence

**Directions (Question Nos. 46 - 50): Out of the given alternatives choose the one which can be substituted for the given words or sentence:**

46. Government by one man  
(a) anarchy (b) monarchy  
(c) autocracy (d) democracy
47. A person who is appointed by two parties to solve a dispute  
(a) judge (b) arbitrator  
(c) advocate (d) barrister

48. A speech made to oneself  
(a) soliloquy (b) dialogue  
(c) intercourse (d) monologue
49. A commonplace remark  
(a) remark (b) statement  
(c) platitude (d) epigram
50. A plan for or the route to be followed on a journey  
(a) trail (b) jaunt  
(c) voyage (d) itinerary

**Directions (Question Nos. 51 - 60): Choose the exact meaning of the underlined Idioms / Phrases from the given alternatives:**

51. The popularity of rock music is on the wane  
(a) growing more (b) at rock bottom  
(c) at its peak (d) gradually declining
52. Everybody waited for the test result with bated breath  
(a) anxiously (b) happily  
(c) excitedly (d) calmly
53. Parents pay through their nose for their children's education  
(a) an extremely high price (b) willingly  
(c) grudgingly (d) by taking loans
54. The involvement of teachers in the scheme of education proved to be a mare's nest  
(a) a false invention (b) a success  
(c) a noble thing (d) complex situation
55. He seemed to be chewing the cud when I asked her about the appraisal  
(a) moving restlessly (b) feeling annoyed  
(c) grinding her teeth (d) thinking deeply
56. The information about China's total alleviation of poverty is all tall talk  
(a) true (b) exaggerated matter  
(c) fake information (d) interesting story
57. He is the sort of man who would do anything for a consideration  
(a) in sympathy with the aggrieved (b) if he were paid to do it  
(c) out of love (d) after careful thought
58. In abeyance  
(a) in suspension (b) cancelled  
(c) in no time (d) in absence
59. An apple of discord  
(a) a treaty (b) sour apple  
(c) a quarrel (d) the cause of contention
60. All agog  
(a) all happy (b) rife with rumours  
(c) restless (d) uproar