

**MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**  
**COMMON COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION FOR**  
**GROUP 'B' NON-GAZETTED (TECHNICAL) UNDER VARIOUS DEPARTMENT,**  
**GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM, NOVEMBER-2024**

**PAPER-I (GENERAL ENGLISH)**

Time Allowed : 3 hours

FM : 100

*Marks for each question is indicated against it.*

*Attempt all questions.*

1. Write a précis of the following passage in about one third of its length : (10)

The great advantage of early rising is the good start it gives us in our day's work. The early riser has done a large amount of hard work before other men have gotten out of bed. In the early morning the mind is fresh, and there are few sounds or other distractions, so that work done at that time is generally well done. In many cases the early riser also finds time to take some exercise in the fresh morning air, and this exercise supplies him with a fund of energy that will last until the evening. By beginning so early, he knows that he has plenty of time to do thoroughly all the works he can be expected to do, and is not tempted to hurry over any part of it. All his works being finished in good time, he has a long interval of rest in the evening before the timely hour when he goes to bed. He gets to sleep several hours before midnight, at the time when sleep is most refreshing and after a sound night's rest, rises early next morning in good health and spirits for the labours of a new day.

It is very plain that such a life as this is far more conducive to health than that of the man who shortens his waking hours by rising late, and so can afford in the course of the day little leisure for necessary rest. Any one who lies in bed late, must, if he wishes to do a full day's work, go on working to a correspondingly late hour, and deny himself the hour or two of evening exercise that he ought to take for the benefit of his health. But, in spite of all his efforts, he will probably produce as good results as the early riser, because he misses the best working hours of the day.

It may be objected to this that some find the perfect quiet of midnight by far the best time for working. This is no doubt true in certain cases. Several great thinkers have found by experience that their intellect is clearest, and they can write best, when they burn the midnight oil. But even in such cases the practice of working late at night cannot be commended. Few men, if any, can exert the full power of their intellect at the time when nature prescribes sleep, without ruining their health thereby; and of course the injury done to the health must in the long run have a bad effect on the quality of the work done.

2. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follows :

Computers are capable of doing extremely complicated work in all branches of learning. They can solve the most complex mathematical problems or put a thousand unrelated data in order. These machines can be put to varied uses. For instance, they can provide information on the best way to prevent traffic accidents. They work accurately and at high speed. They save research workers' years of hard work.

This whole process, by which machines can be used to work for us, has been called 'automation'. In future, automation may enable human beings to enjoy more leisure than they do today. The coming of automation is bound to have important social consequences.

Some years ago, an expert on automation, Sir Leon Bagrit, pointed out that it was a mistake to believe that these machines could think. There is no possibility that human beings will be controlled by machines. Though computers are capable of learning from their mistakes and improving on their performances, they need detailed instructions from human beings to be able to operate. They can never lead independent lives or 'rule the world' by taking decisions of their own.

Sir Leon said that, in future, computers would be developed which would be small enough to be carried in one's pocket. Ordinary people would then be able to use them to obtain valuable information. Computers could be plugged into a wireless network and could be used like radios. For instance, people going on a holiday could be informed about weather conditions. Car drivers can be given an alternative route when there is a traffic jam. It will also be possible to make tiny translating machines. This will enable people who do not share a common language to talk to each other without any difficulty or to read foreign publications.

It is impossible to assess the importance of a machine of this sort, for many international misunderstandings are caused simply due to our failure to understand one another. Computers will also be used in ordinary public hospitals. By providing a machine with a patient's systems, a doctor will be able to diagnose the nature of his illness. Similarly, machines could be used to keep a check on a patient's health record and bring it up to date. Doctors will, therefore, have immediate access to great many facts which will help them in their work. Book-keepers and Accountants too, could be relieved of dull clerical work. For, the tedious task of compiling and checking lists of figures could be done entirely by machines. Computers are the most efficient servant that man has ever had, and there is no limit to the way they can be used to improve our lives.

**Questions :**

- (a) What is the limitation of computers? (1)
  - (b) In the opinion of the writer, which benefits can be derived from automation? (2)
  - (c) In paragraph 1, the writer says 'computers can provide information in the best way'. Explain in context. (2)
  - (d) Is it True or False that Automation would not give any leisure time to human beings. (1)
  - (e) In the context of the given passage, the synonym of 'monotonous' is \_\_\_\_\_. (1)
  - (f) List two areas where computers can be used effectively. (2)
  - (g) How can the benefits suggested in paragraph 3 be best described? (2)
  - (h) Why is it fair to say that computers will help a lot even in ordinary public hospital? (2)
  - (i) The writer believes that automation will bring social \_\_\_\_\_. (1)
  - (j) Give a suitable title for the passage (1)
4. You are Ravi/Rajni, living at 5, Ganesh Bagh, Bengaluru 3. There is frequent power cut and voltage fluctuation in your area causing great inconvenience and damaging electrical appliances. Write a letter to the Assistant Engineer of the Electricity Board of your area explaining the difficulties mentioned and other difficulties you face, seeking quick action. (15)
5. Fill in the blanks using appropriate Prepositions : (7×1=7)
- (a) Most of the family members dissented \_\_\_\_\_ the suggestion he made.
  - (b) Afflicted \_\_\_\_\_ penury he died a miserable death.
  - (c) As a step to renovation he has decided to replace old furnitures \_\_\_\_\_ new ones.
  - (d) Don't loiter \_\_\_\_\_ the street.
  - (e) The public are cautioned \_\_\_\_\_ pickpockets.
  - (f) He is not the man to allow any one to encroach \_\_\_\_\_ his rights.
  - (g) He laboured \_\_\_\_\_ his dictionary for twelve years.

6. Fill in the blanks using the correct form of the verbs given in brackets : (7×1=7)
- (a) This paper \_\_\_\_\_ twice weekly. (*appear*)
  - (b) I meant to repair the fridge, but I \_\_\_\_\_ time to do it today. (*not have*)
  - (c) I \_\_\_\_\_ you one of these days, I expect. (*see*)
  - (d) By the time you return, I \_\_\_\_\_ sewing your clothes. (*finish*)
  - (e) He \_\_\_\_\_ TV most evenings. (*watch*)
  - (f) Did you think you \_\_\_\_\_ me somewhere before? (*see*)
  - (g) Look! The sun \_\_\_\_\_ over the hills. (*rise*)
7. Change the Voice : (6×2=12)
- (a) He is writing a letter.
  - (b) The cat drank all the milk.
  - (c) The teacher punished the boys who had not done their homework.
  - (d) Do you read novels these days?
  - (e) People believe him innocent.
  - (f) The boy is climbing the cliff.
8. Rewrite the sentences in Direct / Indirect Speech : (5×2=10)
- (a) He said to the interviewer, "Could you please repeat the question?"
  - (b) She said, "Farewell my dear friends".
  - (c) He said, "Bravo! You have done well"
  - (d) The Prince said that it gave him great pleasure to be there that evening.
  - (e) He said, "The horse died during the night"
9. Choose the correct one word substitute and use it in a sentence that shows its meaning clearly: (6×2=12)
- (a) One who is a habitual drunkard  
(sot / mongrel / hooligan)
  - (b) A short journey for pleasure  
(ride / trip / jaunt)
  - (c) A writer who steals ideas from another  
(heretic / plagiarist / pedantic)
  - (d) A cluster of houses in a village  
(sector / hamlet / mohalla)
  - (e) A person who is too ready to believe things  
(credulous / faithful / stoic)
  - (f) A person who is appointed by two parties to solve a dispute  
(advocate / judge / arbitrator)

10. Select the word most similar in meaning to the given word :

(6×1=6)

- (a) Fetid  
(i) comical (ii) ornament  
(iii) stinking (iv) child
- (b) Enigma  
(i) truth (ii) fear  
(iii) mysterious (iv) difficulty
- (c) Nonchalant  
(i) casual (ii) imaginary  
(iii) formal (iv) concerned
- (d) Indolent  
(i) stubborn (ii) lazy  
(iii) stupid (iv) proud
- (e) Preposterous  
(i) casual (ii) cunning  
(iii) careful (iv) absurd
- (f) Debonair  
(i) candid (ii) flattering  
(iii) poetic (iv) elegant

11. Choose the correct antonym of the words given :

(6×1=6)

- (a) Extant : dead / long / exists  
(b) Corpulent : meaty / thin / heavy  
(c) Analogous : showy / dissimilar / senile  
(d) Furtive : obvious / unambiguous / open  
(e) Vanguard : opposite / front / rear  
(f) Dank : chilly / dry / moist

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