

**MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**  
**COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION FOR AGRICULTURE & ALLIED SERVICES**  
**(COMBINED TECHNICAL) EXAMINATION,**  
**GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM, DECEMBER-2024**

**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 given passage giving a suitable title. (14)

India has achieved grain self-sufficiency but the production is resource intensive, cereal centric and regionally biased. The resource intensive ways of Indian agriculture has raised serious sustainability issues too. Increasing stress on water resources of the country would definitely need a realignment and rethinking of policies. Desertification and land degradation also pose major threats to agriculture in the country.

India also needs to improve its management of agricultural practices on multiple fronts. Improvements in agriculture performance has weak linkage in improving nutrition, the agriculture sector can still improve nutrition through multiple ways: increasing incomes of farming households, diversifying production of crops, empowering women, strengthening agricultural diversity and productivity, and designing careful price and subsidy policies that should encourage the production and consumption of nutrient rich crops. Diversification of agricultural livelihoods through agri-allied sectors such as animal husbandry, forestry and fisheries has enhanced livelihood opportunities, strengthened resilience and led to considerable increase in labour force participation in the sector.

2. Read the given passage carefully and answer the following questions: (5×2=10)

In recent years, the global community has witnessed an unprecedented shift towards renewable energy sources, driven by concerns over climate change, the depletion of fossil fuel reserves, and the environmental impact of traditional energy sources. Among these renewable sources, solar and wind energy have gained significant traction due to their scalability and declining costs. According to a 2022 report by the International Energy Agency (IEA), solar energy installations grew by 25% annually between 2015 and 2022, with developing nations accounting for nearly half of all new installations.

However, despite the promising growth of renewable energy, there are significant challenges to achieving a fully renewable energy infrastructure. One major obstacle is energy storage. Solar and wind power are intermittent, meaning they generate electricity only when the sun is shining or the wind is blowing. This intermittency necessitates effective energy storage solutions, such as advanced battery systems, to ensure a stable supply of electricity.

Another challenge lies in the economic and political landscape. Many economies, especially those that rely heavily on fossil fuel exports, are resistant to a rapid transition. Countries like Saudi Arabia and Russia, whose economies depend on oil exports, face potential economic destabilization if the demand for oil declines sharply.

Furthermore, there is considerable debate over who should bear the costs of the transition. Developing nations argue that industrialized countries, which are historically responsible for the majority of greenhouse gas emissions, should take on a larger share of the financial burden.

In conclusion, while the transition to renewable energy is gaining momentum, a comprehensive and collaborative approach is essential to address the technical, economic and political barriers. Without global cooperation and investment in technological innovation, the goal of a sustainable energy future may remain elusive.

- (a) What factors have contributed to the shift towards renewable energy sources?
  - (b) According to the passage, which two renewable energy sources have gained significant traction and why?
  - (c) What is the one major technical challenge associated with renewable energy infrastructure as described in the passage?
  - (d) Why might some countries be resistant to a rapid transition to renewable energy according to the passage?
  - (e) What argument do developing nations make regarding the financial burden of transitioning to renewable energy?
3. Write a letter to the Director, Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Mizoram asking him to give you a job in the Department as a Technician. Submit your resume along with the application.

**OR**

Write a letter to your friend inviting him to visit the tourist spots in Mizoram. (10)

4. Complete the sentences with the right prepositions that goes with the adjective before it. (5×1=5)
- (a) It was foolish \_\_\_\_ her to go out without a coat in this weather. (with / on / for / of)
  - (b) We got bored \_\_\_\_ doing the same thing every day. (with / for / about / on)
  - (c) I am sorry \_\_\_\_\_ the noise last night. I hope it didn't disturb your sleep. (in / of / with / about)
  - (d) They stayed back because Roger wasn't keen \_\_\_\_\_ going out in the rain. (to / on / at / for)
  - (e) Agra is crowded \_\_\_\_\_ tourists all through the year. (by / with / on / about)
5. Put the words/ determiners in the correct order to complete the sentence meaningfully. (5×2=10)
- (a) didn't/ the/few/buy/customer/first/anything.
  - (b) front/the/students/both/sat/at/the/former.
  - (c) to/free/go/be/such/shouldn't/allowed/people.
  - (d) too/that/late/last/was/one.
  - (e) two/ both/tests/the/girls/failed/other.
6. Make two sentences using the same word but showing the difference in their meaning. (5×2=10)  
E.g: The singer made a low **bow** to the audience.  
Maria placed a red **bow** on the birthday gift.
- |             |          |
|-------------|----------|
| (a) Present | (b) Live |
| (c) Wind    | (d) Pen  |
| (e) Play    |          |
7. Answer the following questions using the instructions given within the brackets. (16×1=16)
- (a) My bicycle is the \_\_\_\_\_ (nice) thing I own (Insert correct superlative adjective)
  - (b) We swam \_\_\_\_\_ before the storm. (Insert correct adverb)
  - (c) The boat sailed yesterday. (Rewrite in simple present tense)
  - (d) I have finished my assignment. (Rewrite in past perfect tense)
  - (e) Tokyo is the capital of Japan. (Change the sentence to interrogative)
  - (f) You have made a big mess. (Change the sentence to exclamatory)
  - (g) "Do they live here?" (Change the sentence to indirect speech)

- (h) She asked if we should start. (Change the sentence to direct speech)
- (i) He came to work on time in spite of missing the bus. (Is the underlined words phrase or clause)
- (j) Liani lived outside her home for 5 years. (Is the underlined words phrase or clause)
- (k) Grandma is planting roses in the garden. (Change into passive voice)
- (l) His return was not expected by us. (Change into passive voice)
- (m) To whom was the story told by you? (Change into active voice)
- (n) A party was held to celebrate their victory. (Change into active voice)
- (o) Karim said, 'I'd like to know where the library is?' (Change into reported speech)
- (p) Sania thought, 'There is no hope of winning the match now'. (Change into reported speech)

8. Write the antonyms of the given words. (5×1=5)

- (a) opaque (b) brawny
- (c) aid (d) captivity
- (e) dismal

9. Write the synonym of the given words. (5×1=5)

- (a) unique (b) omit
- (c) brag (d) eminent
- (e) awful

10. Make meaningful sentences with the given idioms & phrases. (5×2=10)

- (a) Put your foot in your mouth (b) A dime a dozen
- (c) On the ball (d) Jump on the bandwagon
- (e) The best of both worlds

11. Complete the sentences with suitable pronouns (5×1=5)

- (a) Be sure that everyone brings \_\_\_ own book.
- (b) If anyone calls, tell \_\_\_ that i will be back soon.
- (c) Janet and \_\_\_ have been close friends for many years now.
- (d) Between you and \_\_\_, this film is going to be a flop.
- (e) Each person in the room turned \_\_\_ head to see who it was.

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