

MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION FOR
STENOGRAPHER GRADE-III UNDER MIZORAM LOKAYUKTA,
GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM.
(MARCH-2025)

GENERAL ENGLISH

Time Allowed : 3 hours

FM : 100

PM : 36

SECTION - A (25 Marks)

Marks for each question is indicated against it.

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

1. Write a précis of the following passage. (10)

Over-eating is one of the most wonderful practices among those who think that they can afford it. In fact, authorities say that nearly all who can get as much as they desire, over-eat to their disadvantage. This class of people could save a great more food than they can save by missing one meal per week and at the same time they could improve their health.

A heavy meal at night, the so-called, 'dinner', is the fashion with many and often it is taken shortly before retiring. It is unnecessary and could be forgone, not only once a week but daily without loss of strength. From three to five hours are needed to digest food. While sleeping, this food not being required to give energy for work, is in many cases converted into excess fat, giving rise to overweight. The evening meal should be light, taken three or four hours before retiring. This prevents over-eating, conserves energy and reduces the cost of food.

2. (a) Compose a formal letter to the Director of Power and Electricity requesting a new power connection for your newly constructed house. (15)

OR

- (b) Draft a letter to the editor of *Vanglaini* newspaper highlighting the poor quality and insufficient supply of water in your locality.

SECTION - B (75 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- 7) : Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. Your answers must be based on the passage only.

Climate change is an unprecedented challenge that threatens ecosystems, economies, and societies worldwide. The persistent rise in global temperatures, largely due to anthropogenic activities, has led to calamitous consequences such as extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and biodiversity loss. Scientists have attributed this phenomenon to the excessive emission of greenhouse gases, particularly carbon dioxide and methane, which trap heat within the earth's atmosphere, exacerbating the warming effect.

One of the most ominous repercussions of climate change is the accelerated melting of polar ice caps, which contributes to rising sea levels and threatens coastal communities. This detrimental shift has led to the displacement of populations, loss of arable land, and an increase in natural disasters. Furthermore, fluctuating weather patterns have disrupted agricultural productivity, leading to food shortages and economic instability.

Governments and environmental organizations have initiated concerted efforts to mitigate climate change through renewable energy adoption, reforestation projects, and carbon reduction policies. However, despite these interventions, the planet continues to experience incessant climatic changes that necessitate immediate global cooperation. The pivotal role of individuals in reducing their carbon footprint, advocating for policy changes, and embracing sustainable lifestyles cannot be overstated.

1. Which of the following best describes the overarching theme of the passage?
 - (a) The benefits of industrialization on global economies
 - (b) The role of technology in reversing climate change
 - (c) The catastrophic impact of climate change and the need for intervention
 - (d) The historical evolution of climate patterns
2. What is the primary factor contributing to climate change, as mentioned in the passage?
 - (a) The natural shifts in Earth's climate cycles
 - (b) Excessive emission of greenhouse gases due to human activities
 - (c) The depletion of the ozone layer
 - (d) Increased volcanic activity
3. What is one of the major consequences of polar ice cap melting?
 - (a) Expansion of habitable land for human settlements
 - (b) Decreased sea levels, exposing more coastal land
 - (c) Rising sea levels, leading to threats for coastal communities
 - (d) A decrease in the salinity of oceans, making them more suitable for marine life
4. What is the synonym of 'unprecedented' in the context of the passage?

(a) Routine	(b) Novel
(c) Predictable	(d) Insignificant
5. What is the closest synonym of 'phenomenon' in this passage?

(a) Enigma	(b) Event
(c) Object	(d) Myth
6. What is the best synonym for 'ominous' in the passage?

(a) Hopeful	(b) Harmless
(c) Threatening	(d) Promising

7. Which word can replace 'incessant' while maintaining the meaning?
- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| (a) Sporadic | (b) Ceaseless |
| (c) Temporary | (d) Terminating |

Directions (Question Nos. 8 - 15) : Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. Your answers must be based on the passage only.

Reading good books is an indispensable habit that enriches the mind, fosters intellectual growth, and broadens one's perspective. A well-written book serves as an illustrious guide, offering wisdom that transcends time and geography. Books expose readers to profound ideas, stimulate critical thinking, and cultivate a sense of curiosity. Those who engage in thoughtful reading develop a more astute understanding of the world and a refined ability to articulate their thoughts.

The habit of reading not only enhances knowledge but also refines linguistic skills. A lucid and well-structured book improves vocabulary, comprehension, and analytical abilities. Additionally, reading provides an escape from mundane realities, allowing individuals to immerse themselves in the captivating narratives of fiction or the erudite insights of non-fiction. Such engagement strengthens cognitive faculties, improves concentration, and fortifies memory.

Beyond intellectual benefits, books offer solace during turbulent times. The written word has the power to ameliorate stress, evoke empathy, and foster emotional resilience. Readers often find comfort in literature that resonates with their own experiences, helping them navigate personal dilemmas with newfound clarity. In an era dominated by digital distractions, cultivating a deep engagement with books can be a formidable antidote to fragmented attention and superficial content consumption.

Ultimately, reading good books is not merely a pastime but a quintessential practice for personal and intellectual growth. It nurtures creativity, instils wisdom, and enriches the human experience in ways that few other activities can. Developing the discipline to read regularly is a laudable endeavour—one that rewards the mind and spirit in immeasurable ways.

8. According to the passage, why is reading particularly important in the digital era?
- (a) It helps counteract the effects of digital distractions and superficial content
 - (b) It replaces all forms of digital media
 - (c) It discourages the use of modern technology
 - (d) It only benefits older generations
9. What is the main argument presented in the passage?
- (a) Reading is a leisure activity with minimal impact
 - (b) Reading is a fundamental practice for intellectual and personal growth
 - (c) Books are outdated and should be replaced by digital media
 - (d) Reading fiction is more beneficial than non-fiction
10. What does the passage suggest about the emotional benefits of reading?
- (a) It is an ineffective way to cope with stress
 - (b) It only benefits highly intellectual readers
 - (c) It provides comfort and helps individuals navigate personal struggles
 - (d) It causes emotional detachment from reality
11. What is one of the major intellectual benefits of reading, as stated in the passage?
- (a) It isolates readers from society
 - (b) It improves linguistic skills and critical thinking
 - (c) It limits exposure to new ideas
 - (d) It reduces creativity

12. What is the opposite of 'mundane' in the passage?
(a) Ordinary (b) Extraordinary
(c) Dull (d) Routine
13. What is the antonym of 'laudable' as used in the passage?
(a) Praiseworthy (b) Commendable
(c) Disgraceful (d) Respectable
14. What is the best synonym for 'astute' in the passage?
(a) Intelligent (b) Clumsy
(c) Indifferent (d) Oblivious
15. Which word can replace 'ameliorate' while maintaining the meaning in the passage?
(a) Worsen (b) Improve
(c) Deteriorate (d) Exacerbate

Directions (Question Nos. 16 - 25) : Identify the parts of speech of each italicized word using the most suitable alternative provided below:

16. *Still* waters run deep.
(a) noun (b) verb
(c) adverb (d) adjective
17. It weighs *about* a kilogram.
(a) adverb (b) verb
(c) adjective (d) preposition
18. Sit down and rest a *while*.
(a) adjective (b) noun
(c) adverb (d) conjunction
19. They *while* away their evenings with books and games.
(a) preposition (b) noun
(c) verb (d) adverb
20. The *after* effects of the drug are bad.
(a) noun (b) pronoun
(c) verb (d) adjective
21. *Although* he was tired, he continued working.
(a) Subordinating conjunction (b) preposition
(c) Coordinating conjunction (d) adverb
22. The book *that* she borrowed was very interesting.
(a) Relative pronoun (b) Demonstrative adjective
(c) Conjunction (d) Adverb
23. She wanted to go to the party; *however*, she had to study.
(a) Conjunctive adverb (b) Coordinating conjunction
(c) Subordinating conjunction (d) Preposition
24. He was *reluctant* to join the discussion.
(a) Noun (b) Adjective
(c) Verb (d) Adverb
25. He completed the project by *himself*.
(a) Demonstrative pronoun (b) Indefinite pronoun
(c) Reflexive pronoun (d) Relative pronoun

Directions (Question Nos. 26 - 30) : Complete the following sentences with the most suitable alternative provided below:

26. Men _____ to abolish war up to now, but maybe they will find a way in the future.
(a) never managed (b) have never managed
(c) will have never managed (d) had never managed
27. The city _____ its appearance completely since 2016.
(a) is changing (b) changed
(c) has changed (d) had changed
28. This article _____ twice weekly in *Vanglaini* newspaper.
(a) appears (b) is appearing
(c) has appeared (d) was appearing
29. A pair of woolen socks _____ me warm all through the winter.
(a) is keeping (b) was keeping
(c) keeps (d) keep
30. Neither food nor water _____ given to the weary workers.
(a) is (b) are
(c) has (d) have

Directions (Question Nos. 31 - 35) : Complete the following sentences with the most suitable preposition provided below:

31. _____ the meeting, several important issues were discussed.
(a) Over the course of (b) In the course of
(c) On (d) With
32. _____ recent events, new policies have been introduced.
(a) In (b) In the light of
(c) On (d) At the light of
33. The scientist specializes _____ molecular biology.
(a) into (b) at
(c) in (d) on
34. _____ reference to your email, we would like to clarify our position.
(a) With (b) For
(c) By (d) Over
35. She is quite skilled _____ negotiating business deals.
(a) at (b) in
(c) for (d) with

Directions (Question Nos. 36 - 40) : Given below are four jumbled sentences. Select the option that gives the correct order.

36. A) Complaining of their difficulties, whining over their troubles
B) Will never get happiness
C) Men who are always grumbling about their poverty
D) Out of life or achieve any success
(a) ABCD (b) CBAD
(c) CABD (d) ACBD

37. A) Our views are not extended to all
B) And very often see but one side of a matter
C) We are all short-sighted
D) That has a connection with it
(a) CBAD (b) ABCD
(c) ACDB (d) CABD
38. A) As a rule, there is more genuine satisfaction in life
B) In the humble cottage of the poor man
C) Than in the palaces of the rich
D) And more obtained from life
(a) ABCD (b) ADBC
(c) BADC (d) BCAD
39. A) The older men sat on their haunches at the threshold
B) Talking about their battles with the *Pawi* tribe
C) Those people who do not wear their hair knotted at the back of the head
D) Their handwoven *puan* pulled around their knees
(a) ABCD (b) ADBC
(c) DABC (d) CDBA
40. A) From time immemorial as an important virtue
B) To producing a type of character capable of fearlessness in battle
C) Courage has been recognised
D) And a great part of the training of boys and young men has been devoted
(a) ABCD (b) ACDB
(c) CADB (d) BCAD

Directions (Question Nos. 41 - 45) : Out of the four alternatives, identify the sentence that is correctly structured:

41. (a) We must adopt on the new changes. (b) We must adapt to the new changes.
(c) We must adopt of the new changes. (d) We must adapt with the new changes.
42. (a) Neither John nor his friends is coming. (b) Neither John nor his friends are coming.
(c) Neither John or his friends is coming. (d) Neither John nor his friends am coming.
43. (a) I could helped you if you had asked. (b) I could have helped you if you had asked.
(c) I could help you if you had asked. (d) I could have helped you if you asked.
44. (a) He was so tired that he could barely keep his eyes open.
(b) He was so tired that he could barely keeps his eyes open.
(c) He was so tired that he could hardly kept his eyes open.
(d) He was so tired that he barely keep his eyes open.
45. (a) If I was you, I would take the job. (b) If I am you, I would take the job.
(c) If I were you, I would take the job. (d) If I had been you, I would take the job.

Directions (Question Nos. 46 - 50) : Complete the following sentences with the most suitable alternative provided below:

46. He completed the test _____, surprising everyone.
(a) slowly (b) effortlessly
(c) confused (d) complicated
47. If she _____ harder, she could have passed the exam.
(a) studies (b) study
(c) studied (d) had studied
48. She spoke so softly that we could _____ hear her.
(a) never (b) barely
(c) completely (d) frequently
49. She was very tired, _____ she kept working until midnight.
(a) because (b) yet
(c) and (d) since
50. Had she known about the meeting earlier, she _____ a different schedule.
(a) will plan (b) has planned
(c) would have planned (d) would have made

Directions (Question Nos. 51 - 55) : Identify the segment which contains grammatical error in the given sentences:

51. Once Paul Wilkin, being asked his name by his servant, found to his dismay that he had forgot his own name
(a) Once Paul Wilkin, being asked his name by his servant
(b) found to his dismay
(c) that he had
(d) forgot his own name
52. As she moved to a foreign country with a completely different culture, language, and lifestyle, she had to quickly adopt to unfamiliar customs, new ways of communication, and a different daily routine to integrate successfully into her new surroundings.
(a) As she moved to a foreign country with a completely different culture, language, and lifestyle
(b) she had to quickly adopt to unfamiliar customs
(c) new ways of communication,
(d) and a different daily routine to integrate successfully into her new surroundings.
53. Three years she grows in sun and shower. Some of these wars have grown out of commercial considerations.
(a) Three years she grows (b) in sun and shower
(c) Some of these wars (d) have grown out of commercial considerations.
54. The expert explained the topic so well that all the audience were understanding it clearly and quickly without any doubts in their mind.
(a) The expert explained the topic so well that (b) all the audience were understanding it
(c) clearly and quickly (d) without any doubts in their mind
55. If she would study harder, she would pass the exam with flying colours and make her parents proud.
(a) If she would study harder (b) she would pass the exam
(c) with flying colours (d) and make her parents proud.

Directions (Question Nos. 56 - 60) : Choose the alternative that is similar/nearest in meaning to the italicized word in each of the following sentences.

56. The manager was *adamant* that the project must be completed by the deadline.

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| (a) Flexible | (b) Unyielding |
| (c) Uncertain | (d) Hesitant |

57. His *taciturn* personality made social gatherings difficult for him.

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|--------------|---------------|
| (a) Reserved | (b) Talkative |
| (c) Friendly | (d) Outgoing |

58. The government imposed *draconian* laws to control the protests.

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|---------------|-------------|
| (a) Harsh | (b) Lenient |
| (c) Temporary | (d) Fair |

59. He was known for his *penchant* for collecting rare books.

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|------------------------|----------------|
| (a) Strong inclination | (b) Dislike |
| (c) Avoidance | (d) Hesitation |

60. Her *laconic* replies made it difficult to hold a conversation.

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| (a) Concise | (b) Talkative |
| (c) Friendly | (d) Detailed |

Directions (Question Nos. 61 - 65) : Choose the correct antonyms of the italicized word in each of the following sentences.

61. His *incessant* talking made it impossible to concentrate on the task.

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| (a) Continual | (b) Intermittent |
| (c) Persistent | (d) Relentless |

62. The *aberrant* behaviour of the scientist shocked his colleagues.

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|-------------|-------------|
| (a) Normal | (b) Unusual |
| (c) Strange | (d) Deviant |

63. The professor's *erudite* lecture impressed the students.

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| (a) Ignorant | (b) Scholarly |
| (c) Knowledgeable | (d) Insightful |

64. His *pusillanimous* reaction to the challenge disappointed his friends.

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|----------------|--------------|
| (a) Courageous | (b) Cowardly |
| (c) Weak | (d) Timid |

65. Her *pervasive* influence could be felt in every aspect of the company.

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|-----------------|----------------|
| (a) Limited | (b) Widespread |
| (c) Omnipresent | (d) Extensive |

Directions (Question Nos. 66 - 70) : Choose the most suitable alternative to fill in the blanks.

66. She showed great _____ in handling the difficult situation.

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|-------------|-------------|
| (a) tact | (b) tactic |
| (c) tactile | (d) tactful |

67. He finally decided to _____ and apologize.

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| (a) bite the bullet | (b) kick the bucket |
| (c) break the ice | (d) hit the hay |

68. I was feeling nervous before my presentation, but I finally got my _____ together and delivered it well.
(a) act (b) role
(c) idea (d) scene
69. She has a very _____ approach to problem-solving, always thinking outside the box.
(a) conventional (b) innovative
(c) predictable (d) ordinary
70. His speech was full of _____; he exaggerated everything.
(a) hyperbole (b) understatement
(c) realism (d) accuracy

Directions (Question Nos. 71 - 75) : Choose the most appropriate alternative provided of each italicized words:

71. I was *feeling under the weather*, so I took a day off from work.
(a) Feeling very happy (b) Not feeling well
(c) Being affected by the climate (d) Going on vacation
72. He *let the cat out of the bag* about the surprise party before we could stop him.
(a) Released a pet cat (b) Revealed a secret unintentionally
(c) Hid something important (d) Revealed a secret intentionally
73. She *hit the nail on the head* when she pointed out the real issue in the meeting.
(a) Used a hammer correctly (b) Solved a problem precisely
(c) Hurt herself (d) Made a mistake
74. After months of debate, the committee decided to *toe the line* and follow the traditional policies.
(a) To follow the rules strictly (b) To cross the boundary
(c) To challenge authority (d) To refuse to obey orders
75. The professor's complex theories were *as clear as mud* to most of the students.
(a) Very difficult to understand (b) Easy to grasp
(c) Highly engaging (d) Completely incorrect

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