

MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

GENERAL COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF INSPECTOR UNDER EXCISE & NARCOTICS DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM. FEBRUARY, 2021

GENERAL ENGLISH PAPER - I

Time Allowed : 3 hours

Full Marks : 100

Marks for each question is indicated against it.

Attempt all questions.

1. Write an essay on **any one** of the following topics: (25)

- Role of youth in nation building
- Combating the menace of addiction
- Ability is nothing without opportunity
- Sustainable Development – Reduce, Reuse and Recycle

2. Write a précis of the given passage: (15)

The contention that the spirit of adventure no longer has any scope for its enterprise seems, at first glance, depressingly true. The highest mountains have been scaled; the deepest seas plumbed. Maps today no longer contain huge blanks marked 'Unknown Territory,' nor do they make random guesses at the shapes of distant land-masses. All major journeys of exploration to determine the true shape and nature of the globe were made in the past. It was left to us to fill in the details with expeditions which once would have been considered impossible. The gaps have been filled. What next?

The obvious answer, of course, is that man is now looking upwards into space. Discoveries are being made at such a tremendous rate that even writers of science-fiction are finding it difficult to keep abreast with them and have to tax their imaginations to invent bigger and better spacecraft. Satellites sending signals as they swing round our globe have become commonplace. Astronauts have successfully landed on the moon and its entire surface has been photographed. The information that satellites may provide fuelling stations for manned rockets no longer strikes us as preposterous. If, twenty years ago, a scientist had urged that we send messages into outer space in the hope of receiving an answer, or that radio-telescopes should 'listen in' to other worlds, he would have been regarded as either irresponsible or mad. Now, anything seems feasible.

From dreams like these, we return to earth with a bump. Trips into space are all very well, but they are not for us: we must content ourselves with our own, much-travelled world. The earth itself is the training ground for adventurous spirits. For 'adventure' need not mean the seeking out of something new. A person can be called adventurous when he finds out something for himself; and it does not matter how many times the discovery has been made before. No one would say that men who set out now to cross the forbidding Antarctic are less enterprising than their predecessors who tried to do the same thing. The little boy who climbs the small hill that overlooks his town, or even he who tries to climb it and fails, has precisely the same spirit that led Hillary to climb Everest. For the bold spirit and inquiring mind, there are inexhaustible possibilities. So long as there are people willing to re-discover places that are well-known, there will be those who will, one day, set foot on remote and trackless shores.

3. Draft an Office Order granting earned leave to Shri ABC (15)

OR

Draft a Notification on the appointment of Shri ABC to officiate as Superintendent in the Excise & Narcotics Department. (15)

4. Construct sentences with *any seven* of the following idioms and phrases to highlight their meanings (7×2=14)

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|--------------------|-------------------------|
| (a) Weal and woe | (b) Pot-luck dinner |
| (c) Under a cloud | (d) Through and through |
| (e) Rule the roost | (f) Rank and file |
| (g) Past master | (h) Hobson's choice |
| (i) Close shave | (j) Bated breath |

5. Expand *any three* of the following passages: (3×5=15)

- (a) Health is wealth
- (b) Lost time is never found again
- (c) Nothing is impossible to the willing mind
- (d) He who has a why to live can bear almost any how
- (e) The truly rich are those who enjoy what they have
- (f) Economy is the wealth of the poor and the wisdom of the rich

Direction (Questions 6-11): Read the passage carefully and answer the questions given thereafter.

A great deal of our time is spent in reading newspapers, and the influence of these journals is very marked. It is surprising how many people naturally assume that if they see a statement in print, as in a newspaper, then it must, for that very reason, be true. The intelligent thinking man knows that this is not the case. The child should, therefore, be encouraged to read the newspapers but at the same time, to read them with a critical eye. Some newspapers tend to give prominence to their news in a sensational manner, and therefore it would always be well to remember the old editorial saying about news: "If it's new, it isn't true: if it's true, it isn't new." The practice of gleaning news *solely* from headlines is very dangerous. Furthermore, newspapers are usually partial in their political views, so pupils should be encouraged to read more than one newspaper. These should, if possible, be supplied by the school.

During the development and growth of the newspaper, the faults referred to above have been admitted as well-established facts; yet the teacher must not unduly exaggerate them or his pupils may develop a highly suspicious attitude to the press and regard anything printed in the newspaper as probably wrong. As a matter of fact, newspapers, wisely used, can be a splendid medium for discussion on social problems, not only in their own columns but also in discussion groups, debates and the classroom. A group might consider, for example, the leading articles which comment on the same topics of interest in all the national daily newspapers. Newspapers can thus help develop the critical faculties of the child and encourage the spirit of free and unfettered argument which is the very life-blood of the democratic mode of life.

- 6. How are discussions on social problems carried on in the newspaper? (3)
- 7. Why is 'free and unfettered argument' called the very life-blood of 'the democratic mode of life'? (3)
- 8. What are headlines and why is it dangerous to rely only on them for the news? (3)
- 9. Why should children be encouraged to read more than one newspaper? (2)
- 10. What attitude to newspapers should the teacher encourage his/her pupils to take? (2)
- 11. Why do many people think that a statement made in print must be true? What sort of person knows that what is printed is not necessarily true? (3)