

MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

GENERAL COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF PROGRAMMER UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, JULY, 2018

GENERAL ENGLISH PAPER - I

Time Allowed : 3 hours

Full Marks : 100

Attempt all questions.

SECTION - A **(20 Marks)**

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

1. Write an essay on any 1 (one) of the given topics: **(20)**
- (a) Freedom of the press
 - (b) Skilling the youth of Mizoram
 - (c) Conservation of natural resources.

SECTION - B **(80 Marks)**

*All questions carry equal marks of 1 each. Attempt all questions.
This Section should be answered only on the OMR Response Sheet provided.*

Directions for questions 1 - 8: Read the given passage carefully and choose the correct answer from the options given below.

Though the U.S prides itself on being a leader in the world community, a recent report shows that it lags far behind other industrialised countries in meeting the needs of its youngest and most vulnerable citizens. The U.S has a higher infant-mortality rate, a higher proportion of low birth weight babies, a smaller proportion of babies immunized against childhood diseases and a much higher rate of adolescent pregnancies.

These findings, described as a 'quiet crisis' requiring immediate and far-reaching action, appeared in a report prepared by a task force of educators, doctors, politicians and business people. According to the report, a fourth of the nation's 12 million infants and toddlers live in poverty. As many as half confront risk factors that could harm their ability to develop intellectually, physically and socially. Child immunizations are too low, more children are born into poverty, more are in substandard care while their parents work and more are being raised by single parents. When taken together, these and other risk factors can lead to educational and health problems that are much harder and are more costly to reverse.

The crisis began in the womb with unplanned parenthood. Women with unplanned pregnancies are less likely to seek pre-natal care. In the U.S 80% of teenage pregnancies and 56% of all pregnancies are unplanned. The problems continue after birth where unplanned pregnancies and unstable partnerships often go hand in hand. Since 1950, the number of single parent families has nearly tripled. More than 25 percent of all births today are to unmarried mothers. As the number of single parent families grow and more women enter the work force, infants and toddlers are increasingly in the care of people other than their parents.

Most disturbingly, recent statistics show that American parents are increasingly neglecting or abusing their children. In only four years from 1987-1991, the number of children in foster care increased by over 50 percent. Babies under the age of one are the fastest growing category of children entering foster care. The crisis affects children under the age of three most severely, the report says. Yet, it is this period-from infancy through pre-school years-that sets the stage for child's future.

1. The main focus of the passage is on the plight of
 - (a) juveniles
 - (b) teenage mothers
 - (c) Unwed mothers
 - (d) infants and toddlers
2. Which of the following does not constitute the 'quiet crisis' in the U.S as per the task force report?
 - (a) babies deprived of immunization
 - (b) more children raised in substandard care
 - (c) new born babies with normal weight
 - (d) more children raised by single parents
3. Which of the following is not true in the context of the passage?
 - (a) the number of single parent families today is approximately three times more since 1950
 - (b) the number of children in the U.S entering foster care has decreased after 1991
 - (c) in the U.S the number of infants living in poverty is about 3 millions
 - (d) more than 25 per cent of all births are to unwed mothers
4. The word Vulnerable means
 - (a) protected
 - (b) sheltered
 - (c) covered
 - (d) susceptible
5. Which of the factors is/ are responsible for the physical,intellectual and social underdevelopment of infants in the U.S?

A. Illiteracy of parents **B.** Lack of parental care **C.** Poverty

 - (a) only A
 - (b) A and C
 - (c) B and C
 - (d) only B
6. Children born out of unplanned pregnancies are highly vulnerable because
 - (a) they are less likely to receive prenatal care
 - (b) their parents are mostly poor
 - (c) parents are troubled by a sense of guilt
 - (d) parents are immature
7. The task force report seems to be based on the data pertaining to the period
 - (a) 1987-91
 - (b) 1950 onwards till date
 - (c) 1987 onwards till date
 - (d) 1950-91
8. The fastest growing category of children entering foster care are.
 - (a) babies below one year
 - (b) below three years
 - (c) between two and three years
 - (d) none of these

Direction for questions 9 - 24 : Choose the alternative that best expresses the meaning of the idiomatic phrase given below :

9. to cry wolf
 - (a) to listen eagerly
 - (b) to give false alarm
 - (c) to turn pale
 - (d) to cry loudly
10. to be above board
 - (a) to have a good height
 - (b) to try to be beautiful
 - (c) to be honest in any business deal
 - (d) to have no debts

- 11.** to drive home
(a) to emphasize (b) back to original position
(c) to find one's root (d) to return to place to rest
- 12.** to have an axe to grind
(a) to arouse interest (b) a private end to serve
(c) to have no result (d) to work for both sides
- 13.** to kick the bucket
(a) to die (b) to be angry
(c) to conclude (d) to absolve
- 14.** to cut one short
(a) to interrupt one (b) to love one
(c) to criticize one (d) to insult one
- 15.** a bolt from the blue
(a) struck by thunder (b) a complete surprise
(c) a flash of lightning (d) a piece of bad luck
- 16.** was plain sailing
(a) was complicated (b) was competitive
(c) was uncomfortable (d) smooth and easy progress
- 17.** took to her heels
(a) bend down (b) kicked off her shoes
(c) ran off (d) rubbed her heels
- 18.** toe the line
(a) mark the line (b) cross the line
(c) follow the rules (d) hit on the toe
- 19.** tread on one's toes
(a) flatter someone (b) walk on toes
(c) tread with toes (d) to give offence
- 20.** much ado about nothing
(a) to make a noise (b) talk about nothing
(c) to make a fuss over small matter (d) to do nothing
- 21.** an apple of discord
(a) sour apple (b) the cause of contention
(c) a quarrel (d) a fight for an apple
- 22.** wash dirty linen in public
(a) make personal quarrels public (b) to criticise
(c) blanket wet in rain (d) cold blanket
- 23.** rub shoulders with
(a) quarrel with a person (b) come in contact with
(c) rub shoulders of someone (d) have a cause to fight
- 24.** get cold feet
(a) to run for life (b) to feel cold
(c) to freeze (d) to be afraid

Directions for questions 25 - 32 : Tick the word which is opposite in meaning to the following words taken from the given passage:

25. Lags (behind)
(a) rush (b) loiter
(c) procrastinate (d) delay
26. Confront
(a) Face (b) tolerate
(c) encounter (d) evade
27. develop
(a) repress (b) expand
(c) thrive (d) embellish
28. reverse
(a) oppose (b) invert
(c) to advance (d) setback
29. Unstable
(a) changing (b) stagnant
(c) unsteady (d) unreliable
30. Abusing
(a) hitting violently (b) ill-treating
(c) acclaiming (d) oppressing
31. Crisis
(a) catastrophe (b) dilemma
(c) trial (d) calm
32. Severely
(a) drastically (b) intensely
(c) normally (d) slightly

Directions for questions 33 - 40 : Identify the part of speech of the words underlined:

33. We usually eat our breakfast at eight.
(a) Noun (b) Adjective
(c) Adverb (d) Verb
34. I believe in his Innocence
(a) Noun (b) Adjective
(c) Adverb (d) Verb
35. The tiger pounced upon the injured deer.
(a) Verb (b) Adverb
(c) Adjective (d) Preposition
36. Our team has won the match.
(a) Verb (b) Adjective
(c) Adverb (d) Noun

37. He said he was sorry and I believed him.
(a) Verb (b) Adverb
(c) Preposition (d) Conjunction
38. He spoke loud enough to be heard
(a) Noun (b) Adjective
(c) Adverb (d) Verb
39. He could rise to his stature because of his invincible courage
(a) Verb (b) Adverb
(c) Adjective (d) Conjunction
40. Alas! the wicked minister was overthrown.
(a) Noun (b) Adjective
(c) Interjection (d) Verb

Directions for questions 41 - 48 : Fill in the blanks with the correct prepositions:

41. In the long run, drinking proved fatal both _____ his reputation and health.
(a) for (b) to
(c) of (d) upon
42. Encouraged by the success of his ventures he has decided to embark _____ the expansion programme.
(a) for (b) at
(c) with (d) upon
43. He was vexed _____ the belated reply from his son .
(a) at (b) to
(c) on (d) of
44. The visit of the P.M has been advanced _____ two days.
(a) for (b) by
(c) to (d) at
45. The rich are not inured _____ manual labour.
(a) of (b) on
(c) to (d) with
46. Indians have pinned their hopes _____ the emergence of some superman.
(a) on (b) in
(c) for (d) with
47. His professional ability and skill proves that he is cut _____ for this job.
(a) out (b) up
(c) down (d) away
48. To my surprise even well to do persons have no scruples _____ cheating others.
(a) in (b) into
(c) of (d) with

Directions for questions 49 - 58 : Identify whether the following are simple compound or complex sentences:

49. Do as I tell you, or you will regret it.
(a) Simple (b) Compound
(c) Complex
50. He is buried near Rome and myrtles grow round his grave.
(a) Simple (b) Compound
(c) Complex
51. He must work very hard to make up for the lost time.
(a) Simple (b) Compound
(c) Complex
52. He worked hard so that he might win the prize.
(a) Simple (b) Compound
(c) Complex
53. The teacher punished the boy for disobedience.
(a) Simple (b) Compound
(c) Complex
54. If you do not hurry you will miss the train.
(a) Simple (b) Compound
(c) Complex
55. He was a mere boy but he offered to fight the giant.
(a) Simple (b) Compound
(c) Complex
56. He bought the library which belonged to his uncle.
(a) Simple (b) Compound
(c) Complex
57. The ship will leave as soon as the mails arrive.
(a) Simple (b) Compound
(c) Complex
58. He owed his success to his father.
(a) Simple (b) Compound
(c) Complex

Directions for Questions 59 - 64 : Choose the correct sentence type.

59. There is no smoke without fire.
(a) Affirmative (b) Negative
(c) Interrogative (d) Assertive
60. Every rose has a thorn.
(a) Affirmative (b) Negative
(c) Interrogative (d) Imperative

61. What a piece of work is man!
(a) Affirmative (b) Exclamatory
(c) Interrogative (d) Imperative
62. Open the door and leave.
(a) Emphatic (b) Exclamatory
(c) Interrogative (d) Imperative
63. Can you fix this car?
(a) Affirmative (b) Negative
(c) Interrogative (d) Assertive
64. It is shocking that such a man is my husband
(a) Imperative (b) Negative
(c) Interrogative (d) Assertive

Directions for questions 65 - 72 : Choose the most suitable alternative to fill in the blanks :

65. On the _____ occasion of laxmi Puja the Mathurs bought a new car.
(a) officious (b) fortuitous
(c) prosperous (d) auspicious
66. A trader was _____ at the city airport early on Sunday morning for carrying gold jewellery worth over 3 crores.
(a) hindered (b) retained
(c) blocked (d) detained
67. The child was so spoiled by her indulgent parents that she became _____ when she did not receive all of their attention
(a) elated (b) sullen
(c) discreet (d) suspicious
68. His direction to the driver were _____ and helped him to reach on time.
(a) expletive (b) explicit
(c) implicate (d) implicit
69. He decided to _____ his matric examination in order to get higher score.
(a) redo (b) review
(c) remake (d) reappear
70. The _____ crowd gave the victorious team a tumultuous welcome
(a) jubilant (b) troublesome
(c) noisy (d) arrogant
71. We must _____ help to the people hit by the cyclone
(a) contribute (b) summon
(c) impart (d) render
72. The peasant rebellion _____ with a high hand by the Emperor
(a) put off (b) put away
(c) put back (d) put down

Directions for questions 73 - 80 : Choose the alternative that is nearest in meaning to the **underlined word in each of the following sentences.**

73. Furtive glances were exchanged between the lovers at the feast.
(a) overt (b) secret
(c) honest (d) watchful
74. She is not seen even smiling these days ;she is rather pensive
(a) sad (b) gloomy
(c) patient (d) thoughtful
75. Mary always had a penchant for antique furniture
(a) inclination (b) art
(c) strength (d) desire
76. On account of the paucity of the funds, work has remained suspended
(a) abundance (b) scarcity
(c) excess (d) possibility
77. After he came back from his evening walk,he felt famished
(a) exhausted (b) hungry
(c) relaxed (d) famous
78. Such conduct deserves reprimand.
(a) praise (b) commendation
(c) reward (d) rebuke
79. The early monsoons have brought respite to the people.
(a) despite (b) period of relief
(c) sorrow (d) calamity
80. The five experiments gave disparate results
(a) similar (b) encouraging
(c) different (d) strange

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