

MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

TECHNICAL COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF CHEMIST-II (ARCHIVES) UNDER ART & CULTURE DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM, FEBRUARY, 2020

GENERAL ENGLISH

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 “*The effects of plastic bags on the environment*” airing your views on the initiative taken by the Aizawl Municipal Corporation (AMC) in making Aizawl a plastic free City in about 300 words. (20)

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 (Questions No. 1 - 12): Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions by choosing the most appropriate option:

The art of living is learnt easily by those who are positive and optimistic. From humble and simple people to great leaders in history, science or literature, we can learn a lot about the art of living, by having a peep into their lives. The daily routines of these great men not only reveal their different, maybe unique life styles but also help us learn certain habits and practices they followed. Here are some; read, enjoy and follow in their footsteps as it suits you.

A private workplace always helps. Jane Austen asked that a certain squeaky hinge should never be oiled so that she always had a warning whenever someone was approaching the room where she wrote. William Faulkner, lacking a lock on his study door, detached the doorknob and brought it into the room with him. Mark Twain’s family knew better than to breach his study door - they would blow a horn to draw him out. Graham Greene went even further, renting a secret office; only his wife knew the address and the telephone number. After all everyone of us needs a workplace where we can work on our creation uninterruptedly. Equally we need our private space too!

A daily walk has always been a source of inspiration. For many artists, a regular stroll was essentially a creative inspiration. Charles Dickens famously took three hours walks every afternoon, and what he observed on them fed directly into his writing. Tchaikovsky made do with a two - hour jaunt but wouldn’t return a moment early; convinced that doing so would make him ill. Ludwig van Beethoven took lengthy strolls after lunch, carrying a pencil and paper with him in case inspiration struck. Nineteenth century composer Erik Satie did the same on his long hikes from Paris to the working - class suburb where he lived, stopping

under street lamps to jot down ideas that came on his journey; it's rumoured that when those lamps were turned off during the war years, his music declined too. Many great people had limited their social life too. One of Simone de Beauvoir's close friends puts it this way. "There were no receptions, parties. It was an uncluttered kind of life, a simplicity deliberately constructed so that she could do her work". To Pablo the idea of Sunday was an "at home day".

The routines of these thinkers are difficult. Perhaps it is because they are so unattainable. The very idea that you can organize your time as you like is out of reach for most of us, so I'll close with a toast to all those who worked with difficulties. Like Francine Prose, who began writing when the school bus picked up her children and stopped when it brought them back; or T.S. Eliot, who found it much easier to write once he had a day job in a bank than he had as a starving poet and even F. Scott Fitzgerald, whose early books were written in his strict schedule as a young military officer. Those days were not as interesting as the nights in Paris that came later, but they were much more productive and no doubt easier on is liver.

Being forced to follow someone else's routine may irritate, but it makes to stay on the path. Whenever we break that trails ourselves or take path of least resistance, perhaps what's most important is that we keep walking.

1. The passage is about:

- (a) how to practice walking
- (b) walking everyday
- (c) what to learn from the routines of geniuses
- (d) the life of a genius

2. The writers in the past:

- (a) followed a perfect daily routine
- (b) can teach us a lot
- (c) enjoyed the difficulties of life
- (d) wrote a lot in books

3. In their daily routines:

- (a) they read books and enjoyed them
- (b) they had unique life styles
- (c) they did not get any privacy
- (d) they did not mind visitors

4. Some artists resorted to walking as it was:

- (a) helpful in interaction with others
- (b) an exercise
- (c) essential for improving their health
- (d) a creative inspiration

5. What did Jane Austen like?

- (a) squeaky hinge as a warning
- (b) squeaky hinge to be oiled
- (c) to be disturbed
- (d) a visitor while writing

6. What was the rumoured about Erik Satie's productivity?

- (a) his idea declined if street lamps were off
- (b) couldn't write without lamps
- (c) his idea declined if lamps were on
- (d) none of these

7. Why do you think Graham Greene hired a secret office?

- (a) he needs a workplace
- (b) he need a private space
- (c) he wanted to work uninterrupted
- (d) all of these

8. How did her limited social life affect Simone de Beauvoir?

- (a) she felt very lonely
- (b) she led a simple life
- (c) she could devoted more time on her work
- (d) she led a cluttered life

9. In what way did T. S. Eliot's day job help him to write?

- (a) found harder to write
- (b) found much easier to write
- (c) it help him write faster
- (d) it help him write accurately

10. What makes it easier for one to stay on the path?
(a) following a great men's routine (b) limiting one's social life
(c) to take an easy path (d) taking a lengthy strolls
11. Find words from the passage which have the same meaning as 'not filled or covered with unnecessary things'
(a) humble (b) uncluttered
(c) uninterrupted (d) none of these
12. Find the synonymous word for 'excursion' from the passage
(a) journey (b) strolls
(c) jaunt (d) hikes

Directions (Questions No. 13 - 28): From the four alternatives given below, choose the correct meaning of the idioms and phrases given in italics in the sentences:

13. I shall *go into* the matter next week.
(a) inquire (b) consider
(c) examine (d) take care
14. It is proper to *keep one's own counsel* among fools.
(a) pretend (b) keep silent
(c) keep aloof (d) to look confused
15. The man *made a clean breast* of the whole case.
(a) confessed (b) keep away himself
(c) falsifies (d) look confused
16. She *turned a deaf ear to* all my requests.
(a) made false promises (b) fulfilled
(c) act foolishly (d) disregarded
17. Whatever you say about this, *I agree to differ* from you.
(a) bid farewell (b) disinterested
(c) be unconvinced (d) do not agree
18. The meeting *ended in fiasco*.
(a) came to nothing (b) ended in confusion
(c) was successful (d) ended with consensus
19. We don't like their *hole and corner methods*.
(a) familiar (b) spoiled
(c) secret (d) fickle-minded
20. I am sadly lacking in the *gift of the gab*.
(a) an important person (b) fluency of speech
(c) consanguineous brothers (d) none of these
21. When all was lost, the piece of bread in my pocket served as a *shot in the locker*.
(a) main resource (b) the last reserve
(c) sapping life (d) all of these

22. He had to leave his country *bag and baggage*.
- (a) with all belongings (b) with some properties
(c) with few belongings (d) with many properties
23. The rescue team searched *high and low* for any earthquake survival, but could find no sign of life.
- (a) few and far between (b) as fast as they could
(c) with difficulties (d) everywhere
24. I have *not known from Adam* - your friend Mr. Robert.
- (a) have never heard of (b) known from the earliest time
(c) have no knowledge of (d) both (a) & (c)
25. His bad habits have *upset the apple cart* of his life's ambition.
- (a) cause to quarrel (b) to spoil one's plans
(c) interlinked (d) actively engaged in rebellion
26. The thief was *at large* when police made its vain efforts to catch him.
- (a) unrestrained (b) without any further movement
(c) ceased hostile (d) not keep up with
27. Who will *bell the cat*?
- (a) take the lead with strong determination (b) find the cat
(c) take the lead in a dangerous work (d) destroy an illusion
28. Money was the *bone of contention* between the two men.
- (a) cause of fear (b) cause of weakness
(c) cause of excitement (d) cause of dispute

Directions (Questions No. 29 - 32): Fill up the blanks with suitable prepositions from the alternatives given under each sentence:

29. Copy this word _____ word.
- (a) by (b) for
(c) upon (d) against
30. He enquired _____ her where she lived.
- (a) with (b) from
(c) of (d) to
31. The First World War was fought _____ 1914 - 1918
- (a) during (b) between
(c) on (d) from
32. "I have no appetite _____ any food just now."
- (a) for (b) to
(c) on (d) with

Directions (Questions No. 33 - 48): Identify the parts of speech of each underlined words:

33. Honesty is the best policy
- (a) proper noun (b) emphatic pronoun
(c) abstract noun (d) common noun

34. The Red Fort is made of red stone.
(a) proper noun (b) adjective
(c) adverb (d) material noun
35. The jury consists of nine persons.
(a) demonstrative pronoun (b) reciprocal pronoun
(c) common noun (d) collective noun
36. His voice sounded very hoarse.
(a) abstract noun (b) common noun
(c) emphatic pronoun (d) adverb
37. Everyone answered all the questions.
(a) relative pronoun (b) reciprocal pronoun
(c) distributive pronoun (d) none of these
38. This is the boy whose pocket was picked.
(a) relative pronoun (b) reciprocal pronoun
(c) distributive pronoun (d) interrogative pronoun
39. The two sons quarrelled with each other.
(a) relative pronoun (b) reciprocal pronoun
(c) distributive pronoun (d) verb
40. They go to the same school.
(a) descriptive adjective (b) limiting adjective
(c) distributive pronoun (d) pronominal adjective
41. Phawngpui is the highest mountain in Mizoram.
(a) comparative degree (b) positive degree
(c) superlative degree (d) negative degree
42. I am leaving for Kolkata tomorrow.
(a) adjective (b) verb
(c) emphatic pronoun (d) adverb
43. The zoo has got some new animals and birds.
(a) adjective (b) verb
(c) conjunction (d) adverb
44. John worked hard.
(a) auxiliary verb (b) intransitive verb
(c) principal verb (d) strong verb
45. May God help us.
(a) auxiliary verb (b) weak verb
(c) principal verb (d) strong verb
46. The judge found him guilty.
(a) auxiliary verb (b) intransitive verb
(c) defective verb (d) incomplete verb

47. The Chief Minister hoisted the flag.
(a) incomplete verb (b) intransitive verb
(c) principal verb (d) transitive verb
48. The earth rotates on its own axis.
(a) intransitive verb (b) defective verb
(c) transitive verb (d) strong verb

Directions (Questions No. 49 - 52): Analyse the given sentences and choose the correct option.

49. He not only educated me, but also got me a good job.
(a) Compound sentence (b) Complex sentence
(c) Simple sentence (d) None of these
50. The team that wins the toss usually chooses to bat.
(a) Simple sentence (b) Complex sentence
(c) Compound sentence (d) None of these
51. Let's take the taxi, for it's already late.
(a) Compound sentence (b) Complex sentence
(c) Simple sentence (d) None of these
52. I want to join the medical course.
(a) Complex sentence (b) Compound sentence
(c) Simple sentence (d) None of these

Directions (Questions No. 53 - 55) : Pick the correct clause of the words underlined in the given sentences.

53. This is the boy who broke the window-pane.
(a) Adverbial Clause (b) Adjectival Clause
(c) Noun Clause (d) Co-ordinate Clause
54. He is so old that he cannot walk even.
(a) Adverb clause of effect (b) Adverbial clause of purpose
(c) Adverbial clause of condition (d) Adverbial clause of reason
55. He has been employed on condition that he will stick to this post for at least five years.
(a) Adverb clause of result (b) Adverbial clause of purpose
(c) Adverbial clause of condition (d) Adverbial clause of place

Directions (Questions No. 56 - 60): Identify the concept expressed by each of the sentences by choosing one of the alternatives given below.

56. Noone was more worthy of praise than he.
(a) Affirmative (b) Statement
(c) Assertive (d) Negative
57. Everybody must admit that he was a great man.
(a) Assertive (b) Affirmative
(c) Exclamatory (d) Statement

58. There is nothing wrong with me.
(a) Assertive (b) Affirmative
(c) Negative (d) Exclamation
59. They laughed at him.
(a) Passive (b) Active
(c) Negative (d) Positive
60. No other flower is as lovely as the rose.
(a) Superlative (b) Comperative
(c) Negative (d) Positive

Directions (Questions No. 61 - 64): Identify the sentence combinations of the following and classify them by using the different methods of synthesis of sentences given in the option.

61. We were startled when we heard the explosion.
(a) subordinating conjunction (b) correlative conjunction
(c) coordinating conjunction (d) adversative conjunction
62. Though he was poor, yet he was happy.
(a) subordinating conjunction (b) cumulative conjunction
(c) coordinating conjunction (d) correlative conjunction
63. The good are blessed while the bad have to suffer.
(a) adversative conjunction (b) cumulative conjunction
(c) illative conjunction (d) alternative conjunction
64. He plays football as well as basketball.
(a) adversative conjunction (b) cumulative conjunction
(c) illative conjunction (d) alternative conjunction

Directions (Questions No. 65 - 72): Choose the correct answer from the four alternatives given in the following.

65. Stealing from another man's writing.
(a) Calligraphy (b) Plagiarism
(c) Piracy (d) Expurgate
66. A place where Government records are kept.
(a) Archives (b) Museum
(c) State Library (d) Not of these
67. A statement opens to more than one interpretation.
(a) Ambidextrous (b) Anonymous
(c) Ambiguous (d) Platitude
68. One who retires from society to live a solitary life.
(a) Peddler (b) Gypsy
(c) Miser (d) Recluse
69. Confinement to one place to avoid spread of infection.
(a) Solitary confinement (b) Quarantine
(c) Hermit (d) All of these

70. A work whose writer is unknown.
- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| (a) Posthumous | (b) Philology |
| (c) Ambiguous | (d) Anonymous |
71. Speaking aloud to oneself.
- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| (a) Soliloquy | (b) Chorus |
| (c) Monologue | (d) None of these |
72. The act of killing a human being.
- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| (a) Matricide | (b) Patricide |
| (c) Homicide | (d) Parricide |

Directions (Questions No. 73 - 76): Choose the correct answer from the four alternatives given in the following.

73. The synonym of *Apathy*
- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| (a) Empathy | (b) Sympathy |
| (c) Affection | (d) Passionate |
74. The synonym of *Sagacity*
- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| (a) Wisdom | (b) Insight |
| (c) Discernment | (d) All of these |
75. The antonym of *Tranquil*
- | | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| (a) Calm | (b) Quiet |
| (c) peaceful | (d) None of these |
76. The antonym of *Ameliorate*
- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| (a) Worsen | (b) Improve |
| (c) Advance | (d) Amend |

Directions (Questions No. 77 - 78): Fill in the blanks with the correct answers from the alternatives given under each sentence.

77. A _____ singers.
- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| (a) group | (b) crowd |
| (c) band | (d) troop |
78. A _____ of bees, ants, flies.
- | | |
|-----------|-------------|
| (a) swarm | (b) cluster |
| (c) flock | (d) bevy |

Directions (Questions No. 79 - 80): Fill in the blanks with the correct young ones.

79. Horse _____
- | | |
|----------|-------------|
| (a) fawn | (b) foal |
| (c) kid | (d) leveret |
80. Elephant _____
- | | |
|-----------|----------|
| (a) cub | (b) colt |
| (c) whelp | (d) calf |