

**MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**  
**COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF**  
**GEOLOGIST JUNIOR UNDER COMMERCE & INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT,**  
**GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM, NOVEMBER, 2020**

**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 in about 400 – 500 words on the following : (25)  
- Importance of having a strong structural foundation in construction of any kind of building.
2. Write a précis of the following passage : (15)  
The philosophy of corruption operates interestingly. So long as there are people to offer bribe, there are also people to take it, directly or indirectly. We rationalise the situation and console ourselves that easy money is a human weakness difficult to overcome. The standard of living is constantly rising, soaring prices of essential commodities have broken the back and we indulge in corrupt ways for our children's sake and since everyone else does it, why not us? Must we be the only angels on earth? Every man, it is said, has his price. When the entire economic and social set – up breathes of what is called 'speed money' to push things through, it is almost impossible to resist temptation.  
  
What exactly is corruption? Like all other complex social phenomena, corruption is difficult to define in a single sentence. Essentially, corruption is the abuse of trust in the interest of private gain.
3. As one of the shopkeepers at New Market, Aizawl, write a letter to the Director, Commerce & Industries Department informing him/her of the frequent theft market goers are facing and requesting better vigilance through the market inspectors stationed in the market place. (15)
4. Expand the idea contained in the following (*any three*) : (3×5=15)  
(a) All that glitters is not gold.  
(b) Time and tide waits for no man.  
(c) Fortune favours the brave.  
(d) Rome was not built in a day.  
(e) Do not judge a book by its cover.
5. Make sentences with the following idioms/phrases to show their meaning (*any seven*) : (7×2=14)  
(a) at the eleventh hour  
(b) spill the beans  
(c) out of the woods  
(d) cut to the chase  
(e) be all fingers and thumbs  
(f) apple of discord  
(g) play with fire  
(h) high and mighty  
(i) have an itching palm  
(j) kick the bucket

6. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below :

Religion can be defined as a system of beliefs and practices by means of which a group of people struggle with the ultimate problems of human life. It is the refusal to capitulate to death, to give up in the face of frustration and allow hostility to tear apart one's human associations. All men experience these unending difficulties to some degree. For some persons, however, they stand out as the most significant experiences of life. These individuals are impelled to try to discover some meaning in what seems to be senseless suffering, some find a road to salvation through the obstacles of human life. The beliefs and rites that make up a religion are the expressions of those who have felt the problems most intensively, who have been most acutely sensitive to the tragedies of death, the burdens of frustration, the sense of failure, the disruptive effects of hostility, powered by the strength of their feelings, such religious innovations have created 'solutions' that frequently have burst the bonds of man's sense and of nature, that have brought their adherents some relief. Thus religions are built to carry the 'peak load' of human emotional need.

Defined in this way, religion is, and seems likely to remain an inevitable part of human life. Although the ways of struggling with these ultimate problems are enormously diverse and seem destined for continuous change, the problems themselves are universal. A society that did not furnish its members with beliefs and practices that sought to deal with an enormous burden of tragedy unalloyed with hostility unrestrained could not flourish, if need, it could not survive at all.

QUESTIONS :

- (a) How can religion be defined? (3)
- (b) What, according to the writer, is 'experience' as it is understood by some? (3)
- (c) What are the religious 'solutions' made in order to overcome the human problems? (3)
- (d) Why are religions built? (3)
- (e) Why are religious beliefs and rites called innovations in the paragraph? (3)
- (f) Give a suitable title for the passage. (1)

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