

MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR JUNIOR GRADE OF M.E.S.
UNDER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, AUGUST, 2018.

GENERAL ENGLISH

Time Allowed : 3 hours

FM : 100

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks for the questions.
Attempt all questions.*

1. Write an essay on any one of the following: (20)
- Science and human happiness
 - Need for Alternative Sources of Energy
 - Minimizing wastes in the city

2. Write the précis of the following passage: (20)

The advance of science and technology makes it definitely possible to solve most of the economic problems of the world and in particular, to provide the primary necessities of life to everyone all over the world. It holds the promise of the higher standards and avenues of cultural development opening out. Today the Welfare State and even a classless society are not the ideals of socialism only, but are accepted by capitalist countries also, even though the approaches are different. Thus, the basic ideals come nearer to each other and there is a possibility of approaching those objectives even though the methods might be different. These methods will not only be based on some logical theories, but will have to depend upon the background and cultural development of a community of a country – geographical, historical, religious, economic and social. Any real change cannot easily be imposed. It has to grow. A country, especially one with an old civilization, has deep roots in the past, which cannot be pulled out without great harm, even though many weeds in the form of harmful or out-of-date customs and institutions can and should be pulled out. Even as Nature establishes some kind of an equilibrium which cannot be disturbed suddenly without untoward results appearing, so also in a community or a country, it is not easy or desirable to upset old ways of living too suddenly. The attempt to solve a problem in this way might well lead to graver and more difficult problems. This applies to the external world we live in; much more so does it apply to the inner life of human beings. In dealing with tribal and somewhat primitive societies, it is well known that an attempt at too rapid a change has led to disastrous consequences. The more developed societies may not suffer so much from rapid change, but in the jet age and the coming age of space travel no one knows what biological and other changes may take place.

3. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given thereafter:

Their hair was all brown with dust. The clothes they had on were dirty and torn. Their bare feet were as brown and dirty as their hair. The only luggage they had was a bulging haversack. It was neatly buckled down, and one of them carried it on his shoulder as they walked along the bridge towards Idumota. They were two men who had apparently just arrived from the provinces by lorry. Traders arriving dirty and dusty from head to foot, and carrying haversacks are a familiar sight in Lagos. But these two had an air about them of being in a strange place. They walked one behind the other as if they were picking their way in a forest. They avoided bodily contact with the people walking briskly to and fro past them, and were startled over and over again by the strident horns of the cars. They gaped at the lagoon and at the stream of cars, motorcycles and bicycles rushing in both directions across the gigantic bridge. On the other side, a man was cycling leisurely along on a brand new bicycle from the Idumota end of the bridge. His shirt and

trousers were a dazzling white, and his two tone black and white shoes were spotless. Tilted over his forehead was a white cork helmet. He put on his brakes as his practiced eyes caught the two men on the other side, stopping now and again to allow throng on the pavement. The man on the bicycle studied them from his side of the bridge and waited for a break in the traffic. His eyes never left them. An old car wheezed past. He looked quickly right and left. Another car was approaching, but he dashed across narrowly missing death. Safe on the other side he cycled up to the two men.

(a) Find a synonym in the passage for the following: (12×1=12)

- (i) swell or protrude to an extent
- (ii) stared open-mouthed
- (iii) high, rough noise
- (iv) move to a sloping position
- (v) fastened
- (vi) small freshwater lake
- (vii) loud and harsh
- (viii) immensely large
- (ix) without haste
- (x) glaring
- (xi) crowd
- (xii) walkers' bag

(b) How were the two men different from other traders? (2)

(c) What was the attitude of the two men to the sights and sounds of the city? (2)

(d) What makes you think the two men had just arrived in Lagos? (2)

(e) Give a suitable title to the passage (2)

4. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb: (8×1=8)

- (a) The Committee _____ issued its report.
- (b) The plane, with its passengers, _____ lost.
- (c) Fire and water _____ not agree.
- (d) Anybody can do it if he _____ .
- (e) Two thousand rupees _____ too much for this bag.
- (f) She has _____ a fancy to the woodwork.
- (g) He was _____ desperately for his life.
- (h) You must see the Manager after you _____ lunch.

5. Rewrite the sentences as directed: (8×1=8)

- (a) You are sometimes wrong. (to negative sentence)
- (b) Bring them here. (change voice).
- (c) The thick book is mine. (to complex sentence)
- (d) All that glitters is not gold. (to simple sentence)
- (e) You haven't gone to market, _____ ? (add question tag)
- (f) He is the best teacher in this institute. (use comparative degree)
- (g) What a hot day! (to assertive sentence)
- (h) A boy said to me, "Do you know me?" (change speech)

6. Punctuate the following: (4×2=8)
- (a) we will need pen paper time and space
 - (b) she is sixteen he eighteen
 - (c) they had a door to door campaign
 - (d) she said I am beautiful
7. Choose the word that is closest in meaning to each of the italicized words: (8×1=8)
- (a) The house has been *refurbished* recently.
 - (b) The two experiments gave *disparate* results.
 - (c) The evidence *refuted* the charges.
 - (d) This data is *misleading*.
 - (e) The agreement was *ratified*.
 - (f) She was an *utter* failure as a politician.
 - (g) She shouted at the passers-by in *exasperation*.
 - (h) The *parsimonious* woman railed at her children.
8. Substitute one word for each of the following: (8×1=8)
- (a) One who dies for one's principles or beliefs
 - (b) A work published after its author's death
 - (c) The study of coins
 - (d) Living for many years
 - (e) The science of land management
 - (f) One who is a habitual drunkard
 - (g) A group of artists, dancers or acrobats
 - (h) The art of making fireworks

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