

MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

GENERAL COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF JUNIOR ENGINEER UNDER IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OCTOBER, 2018

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 *any one* (1) in about 300 words of the given topics:
 - Sustainable Development – Reduce, Reuse and Recycle
 - Violence Against Women in India
 - Computer Literacy in Today's World

SECTION – B (80 marks)

All questions carry equal marks of one (1) each. Attempt all questions.

This Section should be answered only on the OMR Response Sheet provided.

Directions (Question Nos. 1 - 8) : Choose the correct meaning of Idioms and Phrases written in bold letters from the four alternatives given.

1. A movement for world unity is **in the offing**.
 - (a) at the end
 - (b) about to start
 - (c) on the decline
 - (d) in the air
2. **Caught between the devil and the deep sea**, John started playing a double game.
 - (a) to be in a dilemma
 - (b) to have no other choice
 - (c) to choose correctly
 - (d) to be unsure
3. He keeps trying to get his manuscripts published, but I think he is **flogging a dead horse**.
 - (a) to do a thing in vain
 - (b) to act foolishly
 - (c) to see a hidden meaning
 - (d) try to revive interests
4. The result of the examination **dashed my hopes**.
 - (a) frustrate
 - (b) failed
 - (c) bring great happiness
 - (d) feel good
5. I can never understand him because he has a bad habit of **mincing matters**.
 - (a) to find fault
 - (b) not to speak plainly
 - (c) to leave in difficulties
 - (d) making fun
6. All the political parties are **tarred with the same brush**.
 - (a) profess the same policies
 - (b) have the same merits
 - (c) treated equally
 - (d) possess the same defects

7. She **makes too much** of her irresponsible son.

- (a) gives little importance to
- (b) pays no attention to
- (c) overestimates
- (d) pays too much attention to

8. Having **too many irons in the fire** has resulted in chronic stress for her niece.

- (a) too many damages
- (b) too many engagements
- (c) too much idle time
- (d) too many enemies

Directions (Question Nos. 9 - 16) : Choose the exact meaning of idiomatic expressions / phrases.

9. *Give a wide berth*

- (a) keep away from
- (b) publicly condemn
- (c) give publicly to
- (d) not sympathise with

10. *Will o' the wisp*

- (a) to act in a foolish way
- (b) anything which eludes or deceives
- (c) to act in a childish way
- (d) to have desires unbacked by efforts

11. *To cut the crackle*

- (a) to dig a well
- (b) to annoy others
- (c) to stop talking and start
- (d) to act in a friendly way

12. *Be in the mire*

- (a) be in love
- (b) be uneasy
- (c) be in difficulties
- (d) be under debt

13. *To take with a grain of salt*

- (a) to take seriously
- (b) to take wholeheartedly
- (c) to take with total disbelief
- (d) to take with some reservation

14. *To bring one's eggs to a bad market*

- (a) to face a humiliating situation
- (b) to fail in one's plans
- (c) to show one's talents before an audience which is incapable of appreciating them
- (d) to bring one's commodities to a market where there is no demand for them.

15. *To give / get the bird*

- (a) to get the awaited
- (b) to send away
- (c) to have good luck
- (d) to get the impossible

16. *Like hand and glove*

- (a) close companions
- (b) strangers
- (c) contemporaries
- (d) bitter enemies

Directions (Question Nos. 17 - 24) : Read the following passage and answer the following questions on the basis of information provided in the passage.

Our body is a wondrous mechanism and when subjected to unusual stress over a period of time, it adapts itself to deal more effectively with that stress. Therefore, when you exert your muscles against resistance, they are forced to adapt and deal with this extraordinary work load. This is the principle of weight training. Strands of muscle fibres become thicker and stronger in response to the demands placed on them.

One of the great merits of weight training is the strength of your heart. During weight training, your heart is forced to beat faster and stronger in order to pump sufficient blood to the muscles being worked. In time, your heart, like your body, will adapt to this extra-workload by becoming stronger and more efficient. Since your body needs a given amount of blood to perform its daily tasks your heart will now need fewer beats to pump the same quantity of blood. Sounds good? There's more. Your entire circulatory system is given a thorough workout everytime you exercise, which increases its overall efficiency. Even the neural paths from your brain's command centres to each individual muscle become more effective, enabling easier recruitment of muscle fibres for carry out physical tasks. In essence, your body becomes a well-oiled and finely-tuned piece of machinery, whirring along without any break-down. In today's stress filled world, you need all help you can get.

17. What is the principal training of weight lifting?
- (a) Adapting the body to muscle force (b) Adapting muscles to force implied on them
(c) Disposing extra-workload (d) Mechanised response to external conditions
18. What affects the nature of muscle fibres?
- (a) Intensity of workload (b) Alimentary system
(c) Nutrition (d) Stress imposed on them
19. How does the heart become stronger owing to physical exercise?
- (a) Thorough acclimatisation (b) Naturalisation
(c) Adapting to excessive workload (d) By accelerating the circulation of blood
20. How much blood does the heart pump at the same number of heartbeats, when exposed to excessive stress?
- (a) Same quantity (b) Less than before
(c) More than normal (d) None of these
21. What does the term 'well-oiled' in the passage denote?
- (a) Healthy (b) Efficient
(c) Massaged (d) None of these
22. In the present world, the importance of physical exercise has
- (a) Increased (b) Decreased
(c) Remained at the same level (d) None of these
23. What, according to the passage, is the function of the heart?
- (a) Oxygenation of blood (b) Pumping the blood to the muscles
(c) Pumping the blood to capillaries (d) Accelerating the circulation of blood
24. What does the above passage suggest?
- (a) We should carry out physical exercise as a routine
(b) Physical exercise is necessary occasionally
(c) We should ignore physical exercise
(d) We should subject our body to as much exercise as it can withstand.

Directions (Question Nos. 25 - 32) : Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it.

The greatest enemy of mankind, as people have discovered, is not science, but war. Science merely reflects the prevailing social forces. It is found that, when there is peace, science is constructive; when there is war, science is perverted to destructive ends. The weapons which science gives us do not necessarily cause war; they make war increasingly terrible. Till now, it has brought us to the doorstep of doom. Our main problem, therefore, is not to curb science, but to stop war—to substitute law for force, and international government for anarchy in the relations of one nation with another. That is a job in which everybody must participate, including the scientists. But the bombing of Hiroshima suddenly woke us up to the fact that we have very little time. The hour is late and our work has scarcely begun. Now we are face to face with an urgent question—Can education and tolerance, understanding and creative intelligence run fast enough to keep us abreast with our own mounting capacity to destroy? That is the question which we shall have to answer one way or the other in this generation. Science must help us in arriving at the answer, but the main decision lies within ourselves.

25. According to the writer, the real enemy of mankind is not science but war, because
- (a) Science merely invents the weapons with which war is fought
 - (b) Science during wars becomes destructive
 - (c) The weapons that science invents necessarily lead to war
 - (d) The weapons invented by science do not cause war, though these make it more destructive
26. War can be stopped if
- (a) Science is not allowed to lead us to utter destruction
 - (b) We replace force and lawlessness by law and international government
 - (c) Science is restricted to be utilized only during war time
 - (d) Weapons invented by science are not used to launch a war
27. According to the writer, the main problem we are faced with is to
- (a) Stop science from reflecting social forces
 - (b) Stop scientific activities everywhere
 - (c) Abolish war
 - (d) Prevent scientists from participating in destructive activities
28. Our mounting sagacity to destroy can be kept under control by
- (a) Encouraging social forces
 - (b) Education and broad-mindedness
 - (c) Insight and constructive thinking
 - (d) Both (b) and (c)
29. The expression 'bring to the doorstep of doom' mean
- (a) Carry close to death and destruction
 - (b) Lead to the threshold of a new destiny
 - (c) Indulge in a ruinous activity
 - (d) Introduces to an unpredictable destiny
30. Which one of the following statements is not implied in the passage?
- (a) People needlessly blame science for war
 - (b) Science is misused for destructive purposes
 - (c) Neither science nor the weapons it invents add to the horror of war
 - (d) The role of science in ensuring world peace is subsidiary to that of man
31. The phrase 'our work has scarcely begun' implies that our work
- (a) Has not yet begun
 - (b) Has only just begun
 - (c) Has been half-way through
 - (d) Has begun, but not yet completed

32. Which of the following would be the most suitable title for the passage:

- (a) Science and social force (b) Science and the horrors of war
(c) Science and world peace (d) Science and the new generation

Directions (Question Nos. 33 - 38) : Identify the parts of speech of each underlined words.

33. Sleep is a blessed thing.

- (a) Adjective (b) Noun
(c) Adverb (d) Pronoun

34. Certainly, Martha was right.

- (a) Adverb (b) Noun
(c) Verb (d) Adjective

35. Don't be in such a hurry.

- (a) Adverb (b) Noun
(c) Pronoun (d) Adjective

36. Whom should I give this gift to?

- (a) Adverb (b) Adjective
(c) Pronoun (d) Noun

37. I did not hope to qualify, and see, I was among the top ten.

- (a) Conjunction (b) Interjection
(c) Adjective (d) Adverb

38. Few are interested.

- (a) Noun (b) Adjective
(c) Adverb (d) Pronoun

Directions (Question Nos. 39 – 43) : Fill in the blanks with appropriate preposition given below each sentence.

39. I prevailed _____ him to vote for you.

- (a) on (b) upon
(c) to (d) with

40. This car differs _____ that in many ways.

- (a) from (b) with
(c) to (d) on

41. It is dangerous to intrude _____ the enemy's camp.

- (a) through (b) into
(c) in (d) on

42. Early rising is beneficial _____ health.

- (a) for (b) with
(c) to (d) upon

43. He is negligent _____ whatever he does.

- (a) in (b) of
(c) to (d) with

Directions (Question Nos. 44 – 48): Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate form of the verb given.

44. I did not know it until you _____.
- (a) have spoken (b) speak
(c) spoke (d) were speaking
45. I _____ him for ten years.
- (a) did not see (b) will not see
(c) have not seen (d) had not seen
46. In the latest news of the conflict in Libya, the rebels _____ deeper into the government held territory.
- (a) had pushed (b) are pushing
(c) push (d) pushes.
47. Here are your shoes ; I _____ them.
- (a) have clean (b) had just cleaned
(c) have just cleaned (d) have been cleaning
48. I _____ this book by tomorrow evening.
- (a) will finish (b) am finishing
(c) will be finishing (d) will have finished

Directions (Question Nos. 49 – 54) : Analyse the given sentences and choose the correct one from the options given.

49. Send the deed after me and I'll sign it.
- (a) Compound (b) Complex
(c) Simple
50. He remarked on the boy's impudence.
- (a) Compound (b) Complex
(c) Simple
51. We wish to live and so we live
- (a) Compound (b) Complex
(c) Simple
52. Here is a barrier that cannot be passed.
- (a) Compound (b) Complex
(c) Simple
53. Grant me what I ask.
- (a) Compound (b) Complex
(c) Simple
54. Being poor, they often suffered great hardship.
- (a) Compound (b) Complex
(c) Simple

Directions (Question Nos. 55 – 59) : Name the kind of phrases of the underlined words in the sentences.

55. To give up smoking is not easy.
- (a) Noun Phrase (b) Adverb Phrase
(c) Adjective Phrase
56. The old sage spoke words full of wisdom.
- (a) Noun Phrase (b) Adverb Phrase
(c) Adjective Phrase

57. Whatever you do, do with your might.
(a) Noun Phrase (b) Adverb Phrase
(c) Adjective Phrase
58. The sailor climbed with caution.
(a) Noun Phrase (b) Adverb Phrase
(c) Adjective Phrase
59. Do not answer at random.
(a) Noun Phrase (b) Adverb Phrase
(c) Adjective Phrase

Directions (Question Nos. 60 – 64) : Identify the following by choosing one of the alternatives given.

60. No one can touch pitch without being defiled.
(a) Affirmative (b) Assertive
(c) Negative (d) Comparative
61. No man could have done better.
(a) Affirmative (b) Assertive
(c) Negative (d) Comparative
62. Meat is not more nutritious than some beans.
(a) Superlative (b) Comparative
(c) Positive (d) Negative
63. Leave the package at the door.
(a) Imperative (b) Affirmative
(c) Assertive (d) Interrogative
64. The water is too cold for me to drink.
(a) Imperative (b) Affirmative
(c) Assertive (d) Comparative

Directions (Question Nos. 65 – 70): Choose the word which best fills the blanks from the given options.

65. Beauty is to ugliness as adversity is to _____.
(a) happiness (b) misery
(c) prosperity (d) cowardice
66. As he entered, he couldn't miss the _____ tension in the room.
(a) palatable (b) palpable
(c) palliative (d) platonic
67. He knew everything better than anybody else, and it was an affront to his _____ vanity that you should disagree with him.
(a) overwhelming (b) overstrung
(c) overwrought (d) overweening
68. The ties that bind a family together are _____ that they can hardly withstand any strain.
(a) tenious (b) tentative
(c) twisted (d) tenacious
69. If an inedible ink is used, this will not be _____.
(a) observed (b) obligated
(c) obliterated (d) obviated

70. The true test of _____ lies not in the number of people who fear you, but in the number who revere you.
- (a) Intelligence (b) fortitude
(c) fortification (d) determination

Directions (Question Nos. 71 – 75) : Select the opposite of the given word from the choices below.

71. Exorbitant
(a) barbaric (b) famished
(c) counterfeit (d) moderate
72. Dearth
(a) scarcity (b) shortage
(c) abundance (d) debility
73. Corroborated
(a) accepted (b) confirmed
(c) denied (d) repeated
74. Obsolete
(a) desolate (b) renovated
(c) heated (d) automatic
75. Capricious
(a) changeable (b) predictable
(c) reasonable (d) captive

Directions (Question Nos. 76 – 80) : Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate alternative.

76. _____ the timely help the patient would have died.
(a) In spite of (b) Because of
(c) But for (d) Despite
77. The topic that we were discussing now was first raised by our boss, _____?
(a) wasn't it (b) isn't it
(c) was it (d) hasn't it been
78. He went to London in order that he _____ become a barrister.
(a) may (b) can
(c) would (d) might
79. He walked as though he _____ slightly lame.
(a) was (b) were
(c) has (d) is
80. This is the girl about _____ I was speaking.
(a) who (b) which
(c) whom (d) whose