

**MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**  
**COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF**  
**INSPECTOR OF FACTORIES UNDER LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT, SKILL DEVELOPMENT &**  
**ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM, 2019**

**GENERAL ENGLISH**

Time Allowed : 3 hours

Full Marks : 100

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

1. Write an essay on **any one** of the following topics: **(20)**
  - Private Entrepreneurship : Prospects and Challenges in Mizoram
  - Your Idea of How to Succeed in a Business
  - Importance of Skill Development
  
2. Write a précis of the following passage and give it a suitable title: **(20)**

Force has been employed since time immemorial as a means to settle disputes, but hardly any dispute has been resolved, on the contrary more problems have been created. Blood for blood is the old formula but has it put a stop to murders and slaughters? Who has not heard of vendettas in primitive societies where the chain is endless? Even on national planes, one war leads to another. The Second World War was only a corollary or even a continuation of the First. The vanquished were itching to avenge the ignominy and degradation to which they had been subjected. There is now, an increasing realisation that force as a remedy has utterly failed. In the field of education, the rod was freely wielded in the past but with what results? For every child who might have been straightened there were nine who went astray. Soul-force is more powerful than brute force; affection is higher than hatred.
  
3. Choose the correct form of verbs from the brackets to fill in the blanks : **(1×5=5)**
  - (a) You, not I, \_\_\_\_\_ trained to do that. (was/were)
  - (b) Either he or I \_\_\_\_\_ to present a paper in the seminar. (is/are/am)
  - (c) The wages of sin \_\_\_\_\_ death. (are/is)
  - (d) The chief, with his elders \_\_\_\_\_ a large amount of money. (receives/receive)
  - (e) Not only John but also his friends \_\_\_\_\_ helped the woman. (has/have)
  
4. Change the following as directed : **(1×5=5)**
  - (a) The criminal was arrested by the policemen. (to past perfect tense)
  - (b) Thangtea's father suffered from fever. (to present perfect continuous tense)
  - (c) By whom are you taught grammar? (to active voice)
  - (d) The cup was broken by the maid. (to active voice)
  - (e) A car runs over a puppy. (to passive voice)

5. Make sentences with any five of the following idioms/phrases : (2×5=10)

- |                            |                           |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| (a) bag and baggage        | (b) burn the midnight oil |
| (c) kith and kin           | (d) a bird's-eye view     |
| (e) through thick and thin | (f) Achilles' heel        |
| (g) tight fisted           | (h) kick the bucket       |
| (i) out of the woods       |                           |

6. Choose the appropriate prepositions to fill in the blanks : (1×10=10)

- (a) The man has a great passion \_\_\_\_\_ football. (to/for/on)
- (b) \_\_\_\_\_ the storm comes the rain. (with/besides/after)
- (c) We met our neighbours \_\_\_\_\_ the supermarket. (in/on/at)
- (d) The thief entered the house \_\_\_\_\_ the backdoor. (by/from/through)
- (e) They are proud \_\_\_\_\_ their heritage. (about/of/with)
- (f) She has been working here \_\_\_\_\_ 2010. (from/since/in)
- (g) Muana comes to school \_\_\_\_\_ foot. (on/by/in)
- (h) The parents no longer have trust \_\_\_\_\_ their son. (at/with/on)
- (i) Children should not loiter \_\_\_\_\_ the street at night. (on/in/about)
- (j) Their journey was beset \_\_\_\_\_ hardships. (by/with/of)

7. Name the parts of speech of the underlined words : (1×10=10)

- (a) I saw a one-eyed dog yesterday.
- (b) Alas! I am done for.
- (c) That place is worth visiting.
- (d) The man worked hard but did not succeed.
- (e) Fortune favours the brave.
- (f) What are you grumbling about?
- (g) The shoe that she wears is quite expensive.
- (h) They seldom come here.
- (i) Our principal is an eloquent speaker.
- (j) This is my son whom I am proud of.

8. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow :

It is common knowledge that there has been wide deforestation in recent years. According to conservative estimates, five million acres have been denuded of forests. This has brought about widespread climatic change all over the country – leading to recurring drought and other natural calamities. Erosion of topsoil in the catchment areas has resulted in the tragedy of yearly flooding of our major rivers. And flood control measures have not been effective because those have been limited to superficial remedies like building embankments rather than rectifying the root cause by starting a vigorous afforestation drive. Deforestation of our hills, in particular, has led to soil erosion and landslides on unprecedented scale, threatening the survival of some of our popular hill stations.

The population increase has not spared the hills. In the towns more and more areas are being cleared to make room for houses and roads are being built in the fond hope of carrying the fruits of development to the hinterland. This is inevitable, of course, but it need not have been indiscriminately, without a thought to the negative consequences. As things are, the natural drainage of these areas has been upset and water seeping into bare earth has led to slipping and sinking of land. Piped water which is being introduced in hills townships without developing adequate drainage facilities has also added to the threat of rapid erosion.

**QUESTIONS :**

- (a) Describe the extent of deforestation in India. (3)
- (b) What has been the result of deforestation? (3)
- (c) Why has the flood control measures failed in our country? (3)
- (d) How does population increase affect the hills? (3)
- (e) How does introduction of pipes add to the threat of soil erosion in the hills? (3)
- (f) Choose one-word meaning from the passage for the following : (1×5=5)
  - (i) to make bare
  - (ii) happen again and again
  - (iii) serious misfortunes
  - (iv) inner part of a country
  - (v) set right

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