

MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

TECHNICAL COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF JUNIOR SCIENTIFIC OFFICER (CONTRACT) UNDER HOME (FORENSIC) DEPARTMENT. MAY, 2016.

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*** of the given topics. **(20)**
- (a) Does travel help to promote understanding and communication between countries?
 - (b) In what ways has information technology changed work and working practices in the past 10 years in Mizoram?
 - (c) Education is the single most important factor in the development of a country. Do you agree?
 - (d) "Love looks not with the eyes, but with the mind - William Shakespeare" Elaborate.

SECTION - B

(80 Marks)

All questions carry equal mark of 1 each. Attempt all questions.

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

Directions (questions 1-8): Choose the correct meaning of the idioms and phrases given:

- 1. Cut the mustard
 - (a) To cut up
 - (b) To succeed
 - (c) Spread out
 - (d) Spice up
- 2. Hit the sack
 - (a) Go to bed
 - (b) Beating up
 - (c) Fill up the sack
 - (d) To lie down
- 3. Not a spark of decency
 - (a) No manners
 - (b) Dress up shabbily
 - (c) Uneducated
 - (d) Imbecile
- 4. Whole nine yards
 - (a) Nine metres
 - (b) A wide space
 - (c) Full of it
 - (d) All of it

5. At the drop of a hat
(a) Broken up (b) At a command
(c) Instantly (d) Without preparation
6. An arm and a leg
(a) Without body (b) Forcibly
(c) To purchase (d) Very expensive
7. Burn the midnight oil
(a) Working late into the night (b) Burning a lamp
(c) Staying up late at night (d) Waking up at midnight
8. Devil's Advocate
(a) Evil's companion (b) Presenting counter argument
(c) Argument in the court (d) Something evil

Directions (Questions 9 – 16) Fill in the blanks with the idioms/phrases provided below

9. Our _____ deserve an applause for the success of this programme.
(a) far and near (b) back room boys
(c) colleagues (d) deem organisers
10. The company purchased new computers as they no longer want the _____.
(a) dead woods (b) outdated ones
(c) old goods (d) old woods
11. An able salesman must be able to _____ to close the deal.
(a) sale on his feet (b) converse ably
(c) trade adequately (d) think on his feet
12. He's been all _____ week collecting data but the report is still not ready
(a) busy as a bee (b) on his feet
(c) chasing rainbows (d) chasing his tail
13. I had cloves for my sore throat and they _____.
(a) cure like a charm (b) heal like a charm
(c) are like a charm (d) worked like a charm
14. Audition test was conducted by the director _____.
(a) to separate the sheep from goats (b) to separate the good from the bad
(c) to separate the dogs from the goats (d) to separate the best from the bad
15. Our business is really improving. We've been _____ all year
(a) in the black (b) in the blue
(c) in the best form (d) in the news
16. That sounds like a good deal, but I'd like to _____ before I give you my final decision.
(a) sleep on it (b) think of it
(c) decide on it (d) concentrate on it

Directions for the following two(2) passages: Read the given passages and answer the questions provided below –

PASSAGE -1: (Questions Nos. 17 – 24)

In today's world, while voices are rising constantly for the protection of Planet Earth the natural habitat of the human race from various ecological threats, these same voices seem to show an amazing tolerance for a form of pollution that is a growing problem: noise. Airplane traffic is increasing by five percent a year. Urban noise is doubling every ten years and is getting increasingly diverse as city life becomes more dependent on technology and robotics. By air, land and sea, we are facing an onslaught of noise that is threatening our ability to survive safely in this world.

We have granted ourselves the right to make noise. On the other hand, what about our responsibilities? Have we developed a sense of acoustic responsibility? The evidence suggests that we have not. Many people seem to believe they have unlimited liberty to make noise with cars and motorbikes and with loud music at home and in the street. In some countries, measures have been taken to force people to produce less noise. In Britain, for example, a law has been passed preventing people from disturbing their neighbours with music at night. But though these measures constitute one step towards recognising noise as a shared environmental concern, they still address the issue only partially and don't allow for a concrete change to take place.

It is widely accepted now that we should deal with our rubbish in a responsible way; and many people have started to demonstrate awareness of this conventional form of pollution. Noise is in reality a particularly insidious form of rubbish. It destroys community life, pursues us into our homes to spoil our tranquillity, keeps us from sleeping and is the cause of many stress-related illnesses, as well as hearing loss. Our acoustic environment is property to us all. Everyone has the right to use it, but no one has the right to abuse it. Let's start using it sensibly.

17. What is the level of noise produced in the cities?
- (a) It is greater after every 10 years.
 - (b) It is as high as it will be after ten years.
 - (c) It is twice as high now as ten years ago.
 - (d) It will be reasonably controlled after ten years.
18. What is the opinion of many people regarding vehicles?
- (a) They have the right to use motorcycles and cars noisily.
 - (b) That motorcycles and cars are not noisy.
 - (c) That motorcycles and cars are disturbing.
 - (d) That motorcycles and cars can be used freely.
19. The protest for the protection of Planet Earth is concerned with
- (a) abolition of animals
 - (b) noise pollution
 - (c) ecological threats
 - (d) diversity in culture
20. Through what means does noise pollute us?
- (a) urban noise
 - (b) by air, land and sea
 - (c) airplane traffic
 - (d) technologies and robotics
21. People have right to it without abusing it -
- (a) ecological change
 - (b) sound environment
 - (c) cultural differences
 - (d) urban noise

22. British government issued laws

- (a) to develop a sense of acoustic responsibility (b) to recognise noise as shared responsibility
(c) to coerce people to produce less noise (d) to prevent production of noise at night

23. What is the synonym of *tranquil*?

- (a) turbulence (b) disturbance
(c) quirk (d) serene

24. Choose the antonym of *insidious*

- (a) stealthy (b) surreptitious
(c) sneaky (d) sincere

PASSAGE -2: (Questions Nos. 25 - 32)

Kip, nap, doze, forty winks, shut-eye and snooze are all expressions we use to describe that mysterious state, sleep. We all do it, we can't get by without it and by the time we reach old age most of us have spent 20 years sleeping. Yet, nobody knows why we do it.

Most scientists reckon that by resting our bodies, we allow time for essential maintenance work to be done. Any damage that there is can be put right more quickly if energy isn't being used up doing other things. Injured animals certainly spend more time asleep than usual while their wounds are healing. And quite a few illnesses make us feel drowsy so our body can get on with curing us.

Sleep is controlled by certain chemicals. These build up during the day, eventually reaching levels that make us tired. We can control the effects of these chemicals to some extent. Caffeine helps to keep us awake while alcohol and some medicines make us sleepy.

By using electrodes, scientists are able to study what goes on in people's heads while they sleep. They have discovered that when we first drop off everything slows down. The heart beats more slowly and our breathing becomes shallow. After about 90 minutes our eyes start to twitch and we go into what is called REM sleep. REM stands for Rapid Eye Movement, and it's a sign that we've started to dream.

You have dreams every night, even if you don't remember them. There are all sorts of theories about why we dream. One is that it gives the brain a chance to sort out the day's activities, filling everything away in the right place. Another is that the brain gets bored while we're asleep and organises its own entertainment - a sort of late night cinema! A lot of people say they have to have eight hours' sleep every night while others seem to manage on a lot less. One thing's for sure, we all need some sleep and going without it can have some very strange effects. An American disc-jockey, who stayed awake for 200 hours to raise money for charity, thought things were bursting into flames all around him after 120 hours without sleep. He survived the ordeal but was depressed for three months afterwards.

Humans are unusual in the way they sleep. Most animals have a sleep during the day and tests have shown that a siesta can be beneficial for us too. It's even been recommended that airline pilots should have a nap during long flights so that they are more alert for the tricky business of landing. So next time you nod off after Sunday lunch in front of the telly, don't feel embarrassed about it. Science, after all, is on your side.

25. Pick the odd one out

- (a) snooze (b) forty winks
(c) shut eye (d) calm

26. According to scientists we start to dream
(a) After an hour (b) After one and a half hour
(c) After two hours (d) After two and a half hours
27. How did the brain sort out the day's activities?
(a) by erasing the day's events from the memory
(b) by sorting out the day's events
(c) by reflecting upon the day's events
(d) by organising the day's events in the right places
28. What chemical can control sleep?
(a) caffeine (b) alcohol
(c) milk (d) juice
29. What is the outcome of staying awake for 200 hours?
(a) dreaming (b) sleeping
(c) depression (d) sickness
30. "Siesta" is another word for
(a) dreams (b) flight
(c) rest (d) nap
31. Pilots on long distance flights would be more attentive to landing if
(a) they are more alert for the tricky business of landing
(b) they concentrate more
(c) they have a short nap during the long flight
(d) they are more experienced
- 32 The text is
(a) a report (b) an article
(c) a narrative (d) an essay

Directions (Questions 33 – 42) Choose the correct simple past or present perfect tense from the alternatives given:

33. I have _____ my homework.
(a) just finish (b) finish
(c) just finished (d) finished
- 34 Mary has _____ five letters.
(a) already written (b) written
(c) already wrote (d) already write
35. Tom _____ to his home town in 1994.
(a) has moved (b) moved
(c) move (d) has move

36. My friend _____ in Canada two years ago.
(a) is (b) was
(c) were (d) has been
37. I have _____ to Canada so far.
(a) not been (b) not gone
(c) not went (d) not go
38. But I _____ travelled to London a couple of times.
(a) have already (b) was already
(c) already (d) has
39. Last week, Mary and Paul _____ to the cinema.
(a) goes (b) went
(c) has been (d) had been
40. I can't take any pictures because I have _____ a new film yet.
(a) not buy (b) not get
(c) not brought (d) not bought
41. Did _____ their holidays in Paris last summer?
(a) they spent (b) they had
(c) they have (d) they spend
42. Have _____ a whale?
(a) you ever see (b) you ever saw
(c) you ever had (d) you ever seen

Directions (Questions 43-48) Choose the correct sentence to change given sentences to direct or indirect speech.

43. She asked, "Where is your sister?"
(a) She asked me where my sister was
(b) She asked me the where about of my sister.
(c) I was asked where my sister was.
(d) Where my sister was, was asked to me by her.
44. They asked me to say hello to Jim.
(a) They asked, "Hello to Jim."
(b) "Say hello to Jim," they asked.
(c) "Say hello to Jim," they said.
(d) They said, "You must say hello to Jim."
45. "Claire must rest." The doctor said.
(a) The doctor said that Claire must rest.
(b) The doctor said that Claire needs rest.
(c) Claire needs rest, the doctor said.
(d) The doctor said that Claire has to rest.

46. He said, "If I was younger, I would accept it."
(a) He said that he would accept it, he was younger.
(b) He will accept if he is younger he said.
(c) He said he will accept it if he was younger.
(d) He said that he would accept it if he was younger.
47. Sanga said that Liana used to be his friend.
(a) Sanga said, "Liana is my friend."
(b) Sanga said, "Liana, my friend."
(c) Sanga said, "Liana was my friend."
(d) Sanga said, "Liana used to be my friend."
48. "What are you looking at?" He asked.
(a) He asked what I was looking at.
(b) I was asked what I was looking at.
(c) I was looking at which he asked.
(d) He ask what I was looking at.

Directions: (Questions 49 – 56): Analyse the given sentences below and choose the right answer.

49. When he saw the danger he stopped.
(a) Simple sentence (b) Complex sentence (c) Compound sentence
50. He saw the danger and stopped.
(a) Simple sentence (b) Complex sentence (c) Compound sentence
51. Life and hope are inseparable.
(a) Simple sentence (b) Complex sentence (c) Compound sentence
52. While there is life there is hope
(a) Simple sentence (b) Complex sentence (c) Compound sentence
53. He not only robbed the man but also murdered him.
(a) Simple sentence (b) Complex sentence (c) Compound sentence
54. Besides robbing the man, he also murdered him.
(a) Simple sentence (b) Complex sentence (c) Compound sentence
55. We must eat, or we cannot live.
(a) Simple sentence (b) Complex sentence (c) Compound sentence
56. We must eat to live.
(a) Simple sentence (b) Complex sentence (c) Compound sentence

Directions (Questions 57 – 61): Choose the alternatives given to substitute the italic words in the given sentences.

57. The suspect could not endure the *enhanced interrogation* and succumb to his wounds.
(a) questions (b) too much questions
(c) physical interrogation (d) torture
58. During WW II, *prisoners of war* were treated brutally by their enemies.
(a) the allies (b) detainee
(c) prisoners (d) the opposing forces
59. Patients facing operation in hospitals are often *put to sleep*.
(a) euthanize (b) etherize
(c) eulogize (d) euthanasia
60. The company is *firing people* as it has gone bankrupt.
(a) killing people (b) shooting people
(c) downsizing (d) closing up
61. Snipers are often ordered to *take down someone*.
(a) imprison someone (b) catch someone
(c) investigate someone (d) kill someone

Directions (Questions 62 – 65): Link the sentences correctly using the options given below:-

62. We have been waiting for two hours. _____ the bus have arrived.
(a) Meanwhile (b) Finally
(c) Since (d) So
63. It is raining heavily. _____ I need an umbrella.
(a) Therefore (b) Thus
(c) Moreover (d) Further
64. You must come immediately. _____ the boss will get angry.
(a) Meanwhile (b) Besides
(c) Otherwise (d) Conversely
65. He worked hard, _____ he failed in the examination.
(a) Unless (b) Since
(c) So (d) Yet

Directions (Questions 66 – 71): Choose the correct meaning of the underlined word.

66. Teenagers were loitering in the streets.
(a) bolstering (b) sitting
(c) moving (d) hanging around

67. He was quite **matey** with everyone.
(a) lively (b) angry
(c) rude (d) friendly
68. We should not allow our work to **impinge** on our private lives.
(a) encroach (b) suffer
(c) reflect (d) dwell
69. The picture has too much **redundant** detail.
(a) long (b) useless
(c) repetitive (d) talking
70. He blinked at them **owlishly**.
(a) intelligently (b) roundly
(c) openly (d) fully
71. The garden was a **riot** of colours.
(a) violent (b) mixture
(c) protest (d) full

Directions (Questions 72 -76): Choose the word which has the similar meaning to the one provided below:-

72. Allusion
(a) reference (b) belief
(c) assumption (d) mirage
73. Brash
(a) grass (b) brazen
(c) harsh (d) quick
74. Console
(a) give (b) conceive
(c) comfort (d) conceal
75. Derelict
(a) substitute (b) deny
(c) possesses (d) abandoned
76. Emit
(a) exhale (b) warmth
(c) take (d) fiery

Directions (Questions 77 – 80): Choose the word which has the opposite meaning to the given word:-

77. Zany
(a) idiotic (b) sane
(c) strong (d) mad

78. Hassle

- | | |
|---------------|-----------|
| (a) confusion | (b) noise |
| (c) peace | (d) work |

79. Idler

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| (a) lazy | (b) loiter |
| (c) hard worker | (d) wastrel |

80. Folly

- | | |
|------------|-----------------|
| (a) sanity | (b) foolishness |
| (c) mirth | (d) overlap |

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