

MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

GENERAL COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF TRANSLATOR UNDER ART & CULTURE DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM. MAY, 2019

GENERAL ENGLISH

Time Allowed : 3 hours

Full Marks : 100

Attempt all questions.

SECTION - A (42 Marks)

This Section should be answered only on the Answer Sheet provided.

1. 'Strong cultural values keep one rooted in modern times.' Express your view on this statement in about 400 – 500 words. (20)
2. Read the following excerpt from a letter sent by Jawaharlal Nehru to his daughter Indira on her 13th birthday and write the summary. (10)

Central Prison, Nainital

October 26, 1930

On your birthday you have been in the habit of receiving presents and good wishes. Good wishes you will still have in full measure, but what present can I send you from Naini Prison? My presents cannot be very material or solid. They can be of the mind and spirit, such as a good fairy might have bestowed on you - things that even the high walls of prison cannot stop.

You know sweetheart, how I dislike sermonising and doling out good advice. When I am tempted to do this, I always think of a 'very wise man' I once read. Perhaps one day you will yourself read the book which contains this story. I have always thought that the best way to find out what is right and what is not right, what should be done and what should not be done, is not by giving a sermon, but by talking and discussing, and out of discussion sometimes a little bit of truth comes out. I have liked my talks with you and we have discussed many things, but the world is wide and beyond our world lie other wonderful and mysterious worlds; so none of us need ever be bored or imagine that we have learned everything worth learning and become very wise.

A letter can hardly take the place of a talk; at best it is a one-sided affair. So, if I say anything that sounds like good advice do not take it as if it were a bad pill to swallow. Imagine that I have made a suggestion to you for you to think over, as if we really were having a talk.

In history we read of great periods in the life of nations, of great men and women and great deeds performed, and sometimes in our dreams and reveries we imagine ourselves back in those times and doing brave deeds like the heroes of old. Do you remember how fascinated you were when you first read the story of Jeanne d'Arc, and how your ambition was to be something like her? Ordinary men and women are not usually heroic. They think of their bread and butter, of their children, of their household worries and the like. But a time comes when a whole people become full of faith for a great cause and then even simple, ordinary men and women become heroes, and history becomes

stirring and epoch-making. Great leaders have something in them which inspire a whole people and make them do great deeds... In India a great leader, full of love for all who suffer and eager to help them, has inspired our people to great actions and noble sacrifice. He has helped to make the starving, the poor and the oppressed free and happy.

If we are to be India's soldiers we have to respect India's honour, and that honour is a sacred trust. Often we may be in doubt as to what to do. It is no easy matter to decide what is right and what is not. One little test I shall ask you to apply whenever you are in doubt. Never do anything in secret or anything that you would wish to hide. For the desire to hide anything means that you are afraid, and fear is a bad thing and unworthy of you. Be brave, and all the rest follows. If you are brave, you will not fear and will not do anything of which you are ashamed. You know that in our great Freedom Movement, under Bapu's leadership, there is no room for secrecy or hiding. We have nothing to hide. We are not afraid of what we do or what we say. We work in the sun and in the light. Even so in our private lives let us make friends with the sun and work in the light and do nothing secretly or furtively. Privacy, of course, we may have and should have, but that is a very different thing from secrecy. And if you do so, my dear you will grow up a child of the light, unafraid and serene and unruffled, whatever may happen.

I have written a very long letter to you. And yet there is so much I would like to tell you. How can a letter contain it?

Good-bye, little one, and may you grow up into a brave soldier in India's service.

With all my love and good wishes.

3. Write a paraphrase of the following verse : (6)

*The glories of our blood and state
Are shadows, not substantial things:
There is no armour against fate;
Death lays his icy hands on kings;
Sceptre and Crown
Must tumble down.
And in the dust be equal made
With the poor crooked scythe and spade.*

4. Translate the following paragraph from Mizo to English. (6)

Mi chungchanga ngaih dân kan siam hian hmuh hmaih kan nei châwk. Chu chu 'tumna a awm chuan kawng a awm,' tih hi a ni. Ka hmêl hriat, pa pakhat chuan tumah hneh a nei lo va; mahse, insuala nguiban thei an awm miah lo thung. He pa hi a luhlul a, a huai a, a chhel êm êm a, engahmah hian tlawm a tum ngai lo. A tâwpa tâwpah chuan a aia chakte pawhin an ngam peih tawh lo mai thin. Rilru chhungrila tumruhna inphûm te, rualawhna te, taihmâkna te, chhelna te, hlawhchham tum lohna awm te hi kan inhmuhpui zo vek sêng ngai lo. Khaw khat nula hmêltha leh fel neitu chu mi hmêltha ber leh hausa ber an ni chuang lo. 'Saw pa nupui atan saw chuan ka va ui e,' i tih chuan, saw pa saw i hre Chiang lo a ni. A nupuiin amaha thil hlu inphûm a hmuh i hmu ve lo tlat alawm!

SECTION - B
(58 Marks)

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

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

Direction (Questions 1 - 8) : Choose the correct alternative closest in meaning to the underlined idioms & phrases.

1. I have hit upon a good plan to get rid of him.
(a) started (b) found
(c) forgone (d) given up
2. He backed up his friend's claim.
(a) gave up (b) opposed
(c) swindled (d) supported
3. When does the Convocation come off?
(a) take place (b) complete
(c) begin (d) end
4. The belief in witchcraft is losing ground.
(a) becoming less acceptable (b) becoming stronger
(c) unlawful (d) gaining popularity
5. It is a far cry from Delhi to New York.
(a) a great difference (b) a long way off
(c) a painful journey (d) a popular city
6. The scheme came to grief owing to want of foresight.
(a) failed (b) made people sad
(c) succeeded (d) was popular
7. One who lives a fast life often dies an early death.
(a) is unhealthy (b) lives carelessly
(c) lives in pleasures (d) drives very fast
8. That territory is a bone of contention.
(a) a subject of content (b) a subject of dispute
(c) not regarded important (d) a very crucial area

Direction (Questions 9 - 16) : Choose the most appropriate idioms & phrases from the given options to make complete sentences.

9. The beautiful landscape of Mizoram _____.
(a) beggars description (b) is few and far between
(c) wins laurels (d) is a turning point
10. If you are not successful, do not _____. Try out something new.
(a) ride rough-shod (b) harp on the same string.
(c) take the bull by the horns (d) carry the day

11. The teacher left the classroom and the students _____.
- (a) followed suit (b) were up and doing
(c) beat about the bush (d) played fast and loose
12. John _____ to achieve his dream.
- (a) blew his own trumpet (b) cut a fine figure
(c) moved heaven and earth (d) kicked up a row
13. In a hurry to reach my office, I left everything lying _____.
- (a) free and easy (b) hard and fast
(c) at sixes and sevens (d) null and void
14. The father's criticism _____ his child's hope of success.
- (a) fell flat on (b) at daggers drawn
(c) few and far between (d) threw cold water on
15. He is _____ sixty.
- (a) on the wrong side of (b) over and above
(c) through and through (d) on the brink of
16. Can you tell me the _____ of his long speech?
- (a) right and left (b) sum and substance
(c) rank and file (d) better-half

Direction (Questions 17 - 26) : Identify the Parts of Speech of the underlined words.

17. He takes after his father.
- (a) Preposition (b) Adverb
(c) Adjective (d) Conjunction
18. I think yours is a better plan.
- (a) Adverb (b) Verb
(c) Pronoun (d) Adjective
19. Give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good.
- (a) Conjunction (b) Preposition
(c) Adverb (d) Verb
20. That is a fault that will right itself.
- (a) Adverb (b) Verb
(c) Adjective (d) Preposition
21. Well begun is half done.
- (a) Noun (b) Adjective
(c) Adverb (d) Verb
22. I have had enough of this.
- (a) Noun (b) Adjective
(c) Adverb (d) Pronoun
23. I met a little cottage girl.
- (a) Noun (b) Adverb
(c) Adjective (d) Preposition

24. Down with the tyrant!
(a) Adverb (b) Verb
(c) Preposition (d) None of these
25. As he was poor I helped him.
(a) Adverb (b) Pronoun
(c) Preposition (d) Conjunction
26. The rich know not how the poor live.
(a) Adverb (b) Adjective
(c) Noun (d) Verb

Direction (Questions 27 - 32) : Choose the correct clause of the words underlined in the given sentences.

27. When the righteous rule, the people rejoice.
(a) Adjective clause (b) Adverb Clause
(c) Noun Clause (d) Coordinate Clause
28. I took him because you recommended him.
(a) Adjective clause (b) Adverb Clause
(c) Noun Clause (d) Coordinate Clause
29. People who eat too much die early.
(a) Adjective clause (b) Adverb Clause
(c) Noun Clause (d) Coordinate Clause
30. Do you deny that you stole the watch?
(a) Adjective clause (b) Adverb Clause
(c) Noun Clause (d) Coordinate Clause
31. I often wonder how you are getting on.
(a) Adjective clause (b) Adverb Clause
(c) Noun Clause (d) Coordinate Clause
32. That was the reason why he came late.
(a) Adjective clause (b) Adverb Clause
(c) Noun Clause (d) Coordinate Clause

Direction (Questions 33 - 37) : Analyse the given sentences and choose the correct option.

33. I congratulated him because he had passed .
(a) Simple Sentence (b) Compound Sentence
(c) Complex Sentence (d) None of these
34. Do this or you will be punished.
(a) Simple Sentence (b) Compound Sentence
(c) Complex Sentence (d) None of these
35. I will meet you at any place convenient for you.
(a) Simple Sentence (b) Compound Sentence
(c) Complex Sentence (d) None of these

36. They rejoice that they are going.
(a) Simple Sentence (b) Compound Sentence
(c) Complex Sentence (d) None of these
37. He saved the child at the risk of his life.
(a) Simple Sentence (b) Compound Sentence
(c) Complex Sentence (d) None of these

Direction (Questions 38 - 42) : Choose the correct passive form of the following sentences from the given options.

38. We admire the brave.
(a) The brave are admired. (b) The brave are to be admired.
(c) People admire the brave. (d) The brave is to be admired.
39. Shall I ever forget those happy days?
(a) Those happy days will not be forgotten. (b) Will those happy days be ever forgotten?
(c) Shall the happy days be forgotten by me? (d) Should those happy days be ever forgotten?
40. My captors were taking me to prison.
(a) I was being taken to prison by my captors. (b) I was taken to prison by my captors.
(c) My captors took me to prison. (d) They were taking me to prison.
41. One should keep one's promises.
(a) One's promises are to be kept. (b) Promises are to be kept by one.
(c) Promises should be kept. (d) Keep your promises.
42. He showed me the greatest respect.
(a) I was shown respect greatly. (b) Great respect was shown to me.
(c) He was showing me the greatest respect. (d) I was shown the greatest respect.

Direction (Questions 43 - 58) : Choose the most suitable word from the given options.

43. My friend and mentor _____ arrived.
(a) has (b) is
(c) must (d) have
44. The flower _____.
(a) smells sweetly (b) is sweet
(c) smells sweet (d) sweetly smells
45. Solomon was the _____ men.
(a) wisest of all (b) wiser
(c) wise (d) wiser of all
46. I _____ the book on the table.
(a) lay (b) lied
(c) lain (d) laid
47. The news is _____ good to be true.
(a) very (b) too
(c) so (d) extremely

48. I shall not come _____ you need me.
(a) unless (b) before
(c) since (d) lest
49. I thanked the guests _____ the staff.
(a) in honour of (b) for the sake of
(c) on behalf of (d) in lieu of
50. We must _____ ourselves to the new environment.
(a) adhere (b) adapt
(c) accede (d) cling
51. The doctor _____ the medicine for his sickness.
(a) has prescribed (b) has proscribed
(c) has prescribed (d) have prescribed
52. The _____ to this office is prohibited.
(a) admission (b) admittance
(c) attendance (d) entrance
53. The court rejected his _____ for mercy.
(a) request (b) application
(c) petition (d) pardon
54. One who can use both hands equally well is called _____.
(a) Bidexterous (b) Ambidexterous
(c) Biped (d) Ambiguous
55. A _____ of goods was delivered by the transport agency.
(a) regiment (b) company
(c) consignment (d) train
56. Please prepare a _____ of books.
(a) list (b) library
(c) table (d) catalogue
57. He is my _____. We work in the same office.
(a) colleague (b) collegiate
(c) matinee (d) coach
58. _____ is the study of various races of mankind.
(a) Anthropology (b) Ethnology
(c) Hematology (d) Etymology