

MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF ASSISTANT PUBLIC PROSECUTOR UNDER LOKAYUKTA, VIGILANCE DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM, NOVEMBER, 2020

GENERAL ENGLISH

Time Allowed : 3 hours

Full Marks : 100

Marks for each question is indicated against it.

Attempt all questions.

1. Write an essay on any 1 (one) of the following: **(20)**
- Influence of technological progress
 - Sociological impact of Covid-19
 - Tradition and modernity

2. Give the précis of the following passage in about one-third of its length. **(10)**

There is an enemy beneath our feet - an enemy more deadly for his complete impartiality. He recognizes no national boundaries, no political parties. Everyone in the world is threatened by him. The enemy is the earth itself. When an earthquake strikes, the world trembles. The power of a quake is greater than anything man himself can produce. But today scientists are directing a great deal of their effort into finding some way of combating earthquakes, and it is possible that at some time in the near future mankind will have discovered a means of protecting itself from earthquakes. An earthquake strikes without warning. When it does, its power is immense. If it strikes a modern city, the damage it causes is as great as if it has struck a primitive village. Gas mains burst, explosions are caused and fires are started. Underground railways are wrecked. Buildings collapse, bridges fall, dams burst, gaping crevices appear in busy streets. If the quake strikes at sea, huge tidal waves sweep inland. If it strikes in mountain regions, avalanches roar down into the valley. Consider the terrifying statistics from the past 1755: Lisbon, capital of Portugal - the city destroyed entirely and 450 killed. 1970: Peru: 50,000 killed. In 1968 an earthquake struck Alaska. As this is a relatively underpopulated part, only a few people were killed. But it is likely that this was one of the most powerful quakes ever to have hit the world. Geologists estimate that during the tremors, the whole of the state moved over 80 feet farther west into the Pacific Ocean. Imagine the power of something that can move an entire subcontinent! This is the problem that the scientists face. They are dealing with forces so immense that man cannot hope to resist them. All that can be done is to try to pinpoint just where the earthquake will strike and work from there. At least some precautionary measures can then be taken to save lives and some of the property.

3. Write a letter to your client regarding clearance of pending payment. **(10)**
4. Expand *any 1(one)* of the following statements to bring out the meaning: **(10)**
- (a) Necessity is the mother of invention
 - (b) Virtue has its own reward
 - (c) Knowledge is power

5. Fill in the blanks with appropriate prepositions: (10×1=10)
- (a) We are sorry _____ your misfortune.
 - (b) A good judge never gropes _____ the conclusion.
 - (c) I was annoyed _____ John for arriving late.
 - (d) There has been an improvement _____ the weather.
 - (e) India is committed _____ a policy of peaceful existence.
 - (f) The ladder leaned _____ the wall.
 - (g) The dog ran _____ the road.
 - (h) You have to choose _____ tea and coffee.
 - (i) It is dangerous to enter _____ the enemy's camp.
 - (j) Rama has no control _____ his temper.
6. Choose the correct form of verb to fill in the blanks: (4×1=4)
- (a) I _____ six letters since 8 a.m. (*wrote / have written*)
 - (b) The milkman _____ here yesterday when we were out. (*is / was*)
 - (c) Milton _____ much of his great poetry after he had become blind. (*writes / wrote*)
 - (d) It is time you _____ earning now. (*start / started*)
7. Choose the word that is closest in meaning to the one given at the top: (5)
- (a) FRANTIC
 - (i) Painful
 - (ii) Novel
 - (iii) Hurried
 - (iv) Excited
 - (b) HUMDRUM
 - (i) Musical
 - (ii) Commonplace
 - (iii) Thoughtful
 - (iv) Unnatural
 - (c) ALACRITY
 - (i) Shame
 - (ii) Stupidity
 - (iii) Greedy
 - (iv) Quickness
 - (d) ATTENUATE
 - (i) Repent
 - (ii) Make thin
 - (iii) Force
 - (iv) Divide
 - (e) CHIMERA
 - (i) Dream
 - (ii) Bogey
 - (iii) Illusion
 - (iv) Fear
8. Choose the word that is most opposite in meaning to the one given at the top: (5)
- (a) AMELIORATE
 - (i) Decay
 - (ii) Worsen
 - (iii) Decline
 - (iv) Die
 - (b) FECUNDITY
 - (i) Barrenness
 - (ii) Vagueness
 - (iii) Narrowness
 - (iv) Emptiness
 - (c) PLETHORA
 - (i) Weakness
 - (ii) Sickness
 - (iii) Smallness
 - (iv) Shortage

(d) CONTINENCE

(i) Location

(ii) Unconscious

(iii) Self-indulgence

(iv) Awakening

(e) DECREPIT

(i) Plentiful

(ii) Delightful

(iii) Delightful

(iv) Youthful

9. Make sentences with *any 8 (eight)* of the following Idioms & Phrases to bring out their meanings:
(8×2=16)

(a) Spill the beans

(b) Cry over spilt milk

(c) To be in the doldrums

(d) Icing on the cake

(e) Come hell or high water

(f) Apple of one's eye

(g) Ball is in your court

(h) Break the ice

(i) A house of cards

10. Read the following passage to answer the given questions based on it. Some words or phrases are printed in bold to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

This world of ours is made up of different people leading different kinds of lives. Some are healthy, wealthy and wise. Many are rich, poor and foolish. Some suffer throughout their lives. Some lead their lives without ever tasting sorrow or pain. Some people are great achievers and rise high in society, while others **pine away** without achieving any success. For some, life is a tragedy, while for others it is a comedy. How can we explain these differences?

According to some thinkers, these differences can be explained by the fate of each one. Fate is an irresistible power or force controlling the **destiny** of man. Man, according to them, is a helpless creature. What is fated must be **endured**. According of this theory, the powers above control every action of man. He is only a puppet with no true will of his own. He has to accept whatever happens as the will of God. He can neither resist nor challenge his fate. Man is said to be a rational animal. He has the power to think unlike the other animals. With the rationally and intelligence with which he has been created, it is not possible for him to accept this explanation.

This philosophy leads to a situation which will make man inactive or passive. If it is accepted, man will question the need to work hard, to be **virtuous** and to be creative. Like Macbeth, he will say, "If I am to be king, I shall become one without my stir." If my fate is not to become an engineer, a doctor, a nurse, an officer or a leader, no amount of efforts on my part will be fruitful. It leads to a very sad and disappointing situation.

Man is the king of God's creation. It is foolish to think that God has made him a puppet. If that was His intention, He would not have endowed him with rationality and intelligence. No father on this earth wishes to treat his children like puppets. We are God's children. He is much kinder than any earthly father. Certainly man is not a victim of fate.

Man has a free will. He has the freedom of choice. Only many accept this of that. One may choose one thing or another. One may study or not study. One can choose the good or the evil. The final choice is that of the individual. One can be responsible for one's actions only if one has the choice. If there is no choice, there is no responsibility, for one is forced to do a particular act. We are responsible for our actions because we deliberately choose to act like that with our free will.

Man has rationality and freedom. He is not forced or compelled to act this way or that way. In this way he makes his fate. I chart the way I want to go. I decide what I should eat or what I should do. Thus man is not a victim but the master of his fate.

It is foolishness to take shelter behind 'fate'. Fate does not rule man. Man rules fate. A student who fails in an examination cannot blame fate for his failure. He must blame himself. If one does not succeed in one thing or the other, the fault often lies with him and not with fate. It is the excuse of the cowards, the lazy and the weak. When we don't work hard or strive towards our goal we fail and then we blame our fate. Success can be achieved by anyone who wants it. Greatness can be reached by all those who struggle towards it. Fate will neither bring it nor take it away.

QUESTIONS:

(5×2=10)

- (a)** What will happen if the philosophy that 'fate controls the destiny of man' is accepted?
- I. The acceptance of this philosophy will make man passive.
 - II. The acceptance of this philosophy will lead to a very sad and disappointing situation.
 - III. The acceptance of this philosophy will encourage people to lead a happy life.
- (i) Only I and II (ii) Only II and III
(iii) Only I and III (iv) All I, II, III
- (b)** Which of the following is responsible for one's failure in life? Answer in the context of the passage.
- (i) Strong belief in fate (ii) Lack of confidence
(iii) Lack of hard labour (iv) Lack of opportunity
- (c)** What is the meaning of the phrase 'pine away' as used in the passage?
- (i) enjoy (ii) laugh
(ii) lament (iv) detest
- (d)** Why is it said that man makes his fate?
- (i) Because he does not believe in the existence of God
 - (ii) Because he has rationality and freedom
 - (iii) Because he can achieve all things he wants
 - (iv) Because he can change the rules of nature
- (e)** Why, according to some thinkers, is man a helpless creature?
- (i) Because everything happening in man's life is predecided
 - (ii) Because a man cannot change his fate
 - (iii) Because man has to accept whatever happens as the will of God
 - (iv) All the above