

MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

GENERAL COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ACCOUNTANT UNDER FINANCE DEPARTMENT 2014

GENERAL ENGLISH

Time Allowed : 3 hours

Full Marks : 100

Marks for each question are indicated against it.

Attempt all questions.

1. Write an essay on any one of the following : (20)
 - (a) The Pleasures of Reading.
 - (b) Economic growth in Mizoram.
 - (c) Political parties in Mizoram.
 - (d) The role and future prospects of women in the churches of Mizoram.
2. Write a précis of the given passage : (10)

Today the finer instincts of man are nearly non-existent. We must have a broader outlook, discard the idea that we alone are peace-lovers and examine whether the ways of life of different people are so conflicting that they cannot be reconciled.

Some people think that Russia wants to bring more countries into her fold; others are enamoured by the tenets of Communism and regard Russia and China as ushers of a new era. Both these views are one-sided. Much is said about the means employed by Russia to attain her ends, about the suppression of freedom of speech, democratic and civil liberties and banning of other political parties. The overall control which Russia has over its satellites, has been resented by the people of those countries, specially by the Eastern democracies.

If Communism survives in spite of these shortcomings, it is because it has a definite appeal to people who want that a State should aim at the welfare of the people as a whole. Although it restricts some democratic liberties, a planning State is a compromise between total State-planning and private enterprise. Communism can be defeated not by bullets or brute force, but by changing people's minds; not by arming nations to the teeth, but by helping them in their economic advancement. The Americans who are genuinely interested in driving out Communism, are best suited to champion the cause of democracy. To free the people from colonial rule and to uphold minority rights should become the main principles of democracy.

It is unwise to think that due to the absence of certain liberties Russians are dissatisfied, just waiting for an opportunity to throw off Communism. While we cannot say that living conditions are excellent in Russia, it is however true that standards have vastly improved. Literacy is widespread; equal opportunity is given to everyone, food is distributed equitably; art is flourishing. People are optimistic, looking forward to still better times and are proud of their present power and position as compared to what existed in Tsarist Russia.

Communism has its virtues and vices. It will therefore, be wrong to assume that anything other than democracy is anathema to people. Human nature can never tolerate tyranny for long and if Communism were naked tyranny, it could no longer thrive. A little patience and restraint may therefore, achieve a peaceful adjustment between the Communist and non-Communist worlds.

3. As an Assistant Divisional Accountant, write a letter to the Director, ABC Department, Mizoram, on the increase of office expenditure on stationery items and request him/her to take necessary measures for reduction of expenditure. (10)

4. Make sentences with the following idioms : (8×2=16)

- (a) bag and baggage
- (b) at stone's throw
- (c) in smooth waters
- (d) to cry for the moon
- (e) to give a wide berth
- (f) to have the gift of gab
- (g) to give one a long rope
- (h) to have an iron will

5. Explain the idea contained in the following [any two (2)] : (2×5=10)

- (a) One swallow does not make a summer.
- (b) Sweet are the uses of adversity.
- (c) He who follows two hares catches neither.

6. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions :

The role friends play in our lives has become significantly greater than at any other time in our history. Today, many of us live and work great distances from where we were born or grew up and are separated from our original families. The pain we feel when we are away from our families can be terrible. The happiness of the individual relies on friendships which form a necessary human connection. It is perfectly normal to need and want friends and depression is more prevalent amongst those who lack friends. They lack the intimacy and richness friends can bring into our lives. Frequently, friends reflect similar values to us. Yet these values are often different from the ones we grew up with; they are the values we created for ourselves in our adult lives. Communication skills are fundamental in all friendships. The more friend and acquaintances one has, the greater are one's communication skills. Some call these 'people skills'. Like watering a plant, we grow our friendships (and all our relationships) by nurturing them. Friendships need the same attention as other relationships if they are to continue. These relationships can be delightfully non-judgemental, supportive, conductive, understanding and fun.

Questions :

- (a) Why do friends play a more significant role today than ever before? (3)
- (b) Why is friendship considered an essential human need? (3)
- (c) How can we grow and continue friendship? (2)
- (d) Pick out from the passage words which means the same as: (2×1=2)
 - (i) basic
 - (ii) a condition in which a person feels sad

7. Fill in the blanks with suitable preposition : (5×1=5)

All of us read but many _____ us do not know how to read efficiently. Reading efficiently means reading _____ varying speed according _____ your purpose of reading, plus reading _____ a fast pace _____ understanding.

8. Give the common nouns for the following : (4×1=4)

- (a) sadness (b) ownership
(c) cowardice (d) childhood

9. Correct the errors and rewrite the following : (5×1=5)

- (a) You are senior than me in service.
(b) I brought my furnitures by goods train.
(c) She neither objected nor approved of it.
(d) The meeting was held for three and a quarter hours.
(e) Either of these roads lead to the hospital.

10. Complete each phrase with a suitable word : (5×1=5)

- (a) A ____ of hair (b) A ____ of cards
(c) A ____ of stones (d) A ____ of singers
(e) A ____ of people

11. Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate words from among those given in brackets: (5×1=5)

- (a) Our charming hostess was very _____ to all her guests. (graceful, gracious, grateful).
(b) There was nothing unusual about the man _____ he smiled, but that happened only when he talked. (except, except for, except that)
(c) The doctor _____ the woman that her son would recover. (ensured, assured, insured).
(d) Many companies see technology as a _____ for a whole host of business problems. (consideration, preference, linking, panacea)
(e) I don't think I dare ask for a _____ at the moment. (raise, rise, arise)

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