

MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
GENERAL COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (TOWN PLANNING)
UNDER URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION DEPARTMENT (UD&PA)
SEPTEMBER, 2018

GENERAL ENGLISH PAPER-I

Time Allowed : 3 hours

Full Marks : 100

*The figures in the margin indicate
full marks for the questions.*

1. Write an essay on any one of the following topics in not more than 300 words: **(25)**
 - Demonetization in India
 - Information Technology in India: Its pros and cons.
 - Education system in India.

2. Make sentences using the following idioms and phrases: **(2×12=24)**
 - (a) By hook or by crook
 - (b) Pros and cons
 - (c) Beat around the bush
 - (d) The lion's share
 - (e) Sell like hot cakes
 - (f) In the lap of luxury
 - (g) Cry over spilt milk
 - (h) Lick one's wounds
 - (i) Tongue-tied
 - (j) Proud as a peacock
 - (k) Swallow one's pride
 - (l) Reduce to tears

3. Write a letter to the Director, Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation Department, Aizawl District, applying for the post of an Assistant Director of Town Planning. Attach your complete resume. **(15)**

4. Expand the following passage into 200-250 words paragraph. **(20)**

A student much devoted to studies- must give an examination one day- the student goes to library to study- sees a good book but has no card – steals the book out secretly – gets good marks – feels absolutely guilty – confesses his crime to the librarian – the librarian angry – but the student returns the book and is forgiven with warnings.

5. Comprehension of given passages:

There is, I suppose, no culture in the world which is absolutely pristine, pure and unaffected by any other culture. It simply cannot be, just as nobody can say that he belongs one hundred per cent to a particular racial type, because in the course of hundreds and thousands of years unmistakable changes and mixtures have occurred. So, culture is bound to get a little mixed up, even though the basic element of a particular national culture remains dominant. If that kind of thing goes on peacefully, there is no harm in it. But it often leads to conflicts. It sometimes leads a group to fear that their culture is being overwhelmed by what they consider to be an outside or alien influence. Then they draw themselves into a shell which isolates them and prevents their thoughts and ideas going out. That is an unhealthy situation, because in any matter and much more so in what might be called a cultural matter, stagnation is the worst possible thing. Culture, if it has any value, must have a certain depth. It must also have a certain dynamic character. After all, culture depends on a vast number of factors. If we leave out what might be called the basic mould that was given to it in the early stages of a nation's or a people's growth, it is affected by geography, by climate and by all kinds of other factors. The culture of Arabia is intimately governed by the geography and the deserts of Arabia because it grew up there. Obviously, the culture of India in the old days was affected greatly, as we see in our own literature, by the Himalayas, the forests and the great rivers of India among other things. It was a natural growth from the soil. Of the various domains of culture, like architecture, music and literature, any two may mix together, as they often did, and produce a happy combination. But where there is an attempt to improve something or the other which does not naturally grow and mould itself without uprooting itself, conflict inevitably arises. Then also comes something which to my mind is basically opposed to all ideas of culture. And that is the isolation of the mind and the deliberate shutting up of the mind to other influences. My own view of India's history is that we can almost measure the growth and the advance of India and the decline of India by relating them to periods when India had her mind open to the outside world and when she wanted to close it up. The more she closed it up, the more static she became. Life, whether of the individual, group, nation or society, is essentially a dynamic, changing, growing thing. Whatever stops that dynamic growth also injures it and undermines it.

Answer the following questions:

(2×8=16)

- (a) Why is there no culture in the world that is absolutely pristine?
- (b) What happens when cultures get a little mixed up?
- (c) What is the worst possible thing in cultural matter?
- (d) What are the two factors, apart from all other factors, that affect culture?
- (e) What governs the culture of Arabia and why?
- (f) What affected the culture of India in the old days?
- (g) How is the growth and decline of India measured in history?
- (h) What injures and undermines life?

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