

MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

TECHNICAL COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF SENIOR HORTICULTURE DEMONSTRATOR UNDER HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT, APRIL, 2018

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 (1) of the given topics in not more than 300 words.
 - The value of sports and athletics
 - Environmental Pollution
 - Cleanliness is next to Godliness

SECTION - B **(80 Marks)**

All questions carry equal marks of one (1) each. Attempt all questions.

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

Directions (Questions 1-16) : From the four alternatives given below, choose the correct meaning of the idioms and phrases given in italics in the sentences:

1. You cannot *have your cake and eat it too*.
 - (a) absolve yourself of guilt
 - (b) enjoy forever
 - (c) have it both ways
 - (d) run away from responsibility
2. Let us have this agreement *in black and white*.
 - (a) with black ink on the white paper
 - (b) make it in writing
 - (c) agreement between the black and the English
 - (d) a peaceful agreement
3. He cannot make *both ends meet*.
 - (a) earn enough
 - (b) work hard
 - (c) control private as well as company's affairs.
 - (d) manage business
4. I have seen many *ups and downs* in my life.
 - (a) up hills and down hills
 - (b) grievances
 - (c) happiness
 - (d) joys and hardships
5. Catherine is a little *hard of hearing*.
 - (a) inaudible
 - (b) disinterested
 - (c) deaf
 - (d) not emotional

6. To tell you in a *nutshell*, lust for power and money has almost spoiled him.
(a) as objectively as possible (b) in simple and brief manner
(c) an actual experience described vividly (d) with confidence
7. The War of Kalinga proved to be a *turning point* in the life of Ashoka, the Great.
(a) retreating point (b) memorable event
(c) an event that changes the fate or views (d) a point of no return
8. His voice gets *on my nerves*.
(a) makes me sad (b) irritates me
(c) pierces my eardrums (d) makes me ill
9. Everything in the room was lying *at sixes and sevens*.
(a) like numbers (b) not in order
(c) in order (d) uncountable
10. Continuous interrogation finally made the man *spill the beans* and the disaster was averted.
(a) to give information (b) to blurt out the truth
(c) to scatter the truth (d) to scatter the beans
11. After having finished the last project, I find myself *at loose end*.
(a) happy (b) on holiday
(c) free of troubles (d) with nothing to do
12. Dr. Radha Krishnan was *a man of letters*.
(a) a man who wrote many articles (b) who received so many letters
(c) a learned man (d) a man of many degrees
13. He is *on the wrong side* of sixty.
(a) below (b) above
(c) under (d) over
14. No one admires an *earth-worm*.
(a) grovelling person (b) joyous person
(c) angry person (d) shrewd person
15. I must get this job *by hook or by crook*.
(a) by strong determination (b) by many means
(c) by all means (d) by several means
16. Every army has *to fight tooth-and -nail* in war.
(a) without fear (b) with courage
(c) with patriotic feeling (d) with great violence

Directions (Questions 17 - 28) : Read the following passage carefully and choose the appropriate answer to each of the questions out of the four alternatives :

A recent report titled 'Women and Children in India' and a nearly simultaneous report on 'Indian Women - their health and economic productivity' highlight the international importance being given to the problems of the progress of Indian women.

Unfortunately, both the reports fail to either convey a fresh understanding of the issue or to suggest innovative and workable approaches for women's development. The former is because the reports restrict themselves to old statistics. We are told, for example, that the ratio of women to men remains below its natural level and that it is related to other parameters, such as the level of literacy and the availability of primary health care.

The failure to suggest a fresh approach is less understandable given that a variety of approaches to women's development has been tried out over the world. In India, the state has made a strong political and economic commitment to women. In 1990, the National Commission on Women was established. In 1989, two major policy documents were released. Ever since, the Sixth Five Year Plan, there has been a special section on socio-economic programmes for women. Poverty alleviation programmes have a 30 per cent target for women. Special programmes like Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas have also been started.

These governmental and other approaches have had mixed results. For example, SEWA's (Self Employed Women's Association) and WWF's (Working Women's Forum) approach of using bank credit to organize self-employed women has worked well. So also women's literacy programmes in Kerala. On the other hand, some of the legislated reforms like dowry prohibition have not work well. The issue of whether women should be identified as separate participants in the development process is also controversial.

In this context, it is disappointing to read in one of the reports that one of the government's targets for 1991-95 ought to be foster 'An ethos of caring in the community, not to let a child 'go to bed hungry,' be subjected to a preventable disease or remain without learning opportunity - this could mark the beginning of a social process towards a more humane order' is the report saying then the Indians don't love their children as a matter of policy makers. It is very unfortunate that these reports have become superficial and don't delve sufficiently deep into the problems.

17. Which of the following is correct in the context of the passage in regard to development schemes?
 - (a) All people are of the opinion that women should be given special status.
 - (b) Some people hold the opinion that women should not be given special status.
 - (c) No one feels that women should be given special status.
 - (d) There is no controversy regarding women being given special status.
18. Which of the following is specifically put forward as a reason for the unequal sex ratio in population?
 - (a) Natural causes
 - (b) Economic development
 - (c) Literacy level
 - (d) Socio-economic programmes
19. Which of the following is not put forward by the author of the passage as a defect of the reports?
 - (a) They highlight the problems of Indian women
 - (b) They contain outdated statistical data
 - (c) The reports have not suggested many new measures
 - (d) Some of them suggested many new measures
20. Which of the following is true in the context of the passage?
 - (a) Culturally, Indians don't love their children
 - (b) All developmental programmes and schemes are generally a success
 - (c) Indian women don't manage their finances well
 - (d) None of the above
21. Which of the following has not been mentioned as necessary, in one of the reports, to start new social order?
 - (a) Prevent hunger of children
 - (b) Prevent disease in children
 - (c) Increase educational opportunities
 - (d) Community care of children
22. Why does the author say that the reports are unable to convey a 'fresh understanding of the issues'?
 - (a) The problems are dealt with superficially
 - (b) Old data are used in the reports
 - (c) Some of the development schemes are not dealt with
 - (d) Indian problems cannot be understood by foreigners

23. Which of the following is conveying the same meaning as the word 'target' is used in the passage?
(a) Aim (b) Margin
(c) Attempt (d) Quota
24. Which of the following is conveying the same meaning as the word 'mark' is used in the passage?
(a) Symbol (b) Sign
(d) Distinguish (d) Notice
25. Which of the following is false according to the passage?
(a) The problem of the women in general is in attention the world over
(b) National Commission of Women is an attempt for women's development
(c) Indian people love their children and try to take care of them
(d) Right from independence, women have been receiving special attention for development
26. Why has, according to the passage, the legislation prohibiting dowry failed in India?
(a) Due to the cultural ethos in the country
(b) Because of the fact that it was passed as law
(c) No social organizations were involved in this
(d) None of the above
27. Which of the following would indicate the same meaning as the phrase 'go to bed hungry' as it has been used in the passage?
(a) Malnutrition (b) Insomnia
(c) Famine (d) Undernourishment
28. Which of the following would correctly reflect the position of the author of the passage to the two reports mentioned in the first paragraph?
(a) Evaluative (b) Critical
(c) Neutral (d) Praiseful

Directions (Questions 29 - 34) : Fill up the blanks with suitable prepositions from the alternatives given under each sentence :

29. Are you _____ the committee?
(a) in (b) on
(c) at (d) of
30. The rule is applicable _____ everyone.
(a) for (b) with
(c) to (d) against
31. He has been ill _____ Monday.
(a) since (b) from
(c) by (d) until
32. A sword was hanging _____ my head.
(a) on (b) upon
(c) above (d) over
33. This is a book _____ poems.
(a) with (b) on
(c) of (d) about

34. The car was running _____ full speed.
(a) with (b) for
(c) by (d) at

Directions (Questions 35 - 40) : Identify the parts of speech of each underlined words :

35. This book is unique.
(a) verb (b) adverb
(c) adjective (d) abstract noun
36. Health is real happiness indeed.
(a) noun (b) adjective
(c) adverb (d) determiner
37. We must serve our motherland
(a) verb (b) adverb
(c) preposition (d) conjunction
38. The weather is delightfully cool.
(a) noun (b) adjective
(c) verb (d) adverb
39. He congratulated me on my brilliant success.
(a) adverb (b) determiner
(c) adjective (d) pronoun
40. We never saw such a terrible accident.
(a) determiner (b) adjective
(c) conjunction (d) Pronoun

Directions (Questions 41 - 48) : Identify the appropriate verb-form to fill in the blanks :

41. The baby _____ for milk
(a) have cried (b) have been crying
(c) has been crying (d) had been cried
42. She _____ a lot of work today.
(a) did (b) have done
(c) have been done (d) had done
43. Robert's career would have been ruined if he _____ in the examination last year.
(a) had not succeeds (b) had not succeeded
(c) have not succeeded (d) has not succeeded
44. He arrived after I _____ my last letter to you.
(a) finish (b) finished
(c) have finished (d) had finished
45. He _____ her for a long time before he finally got married to her.
(a) knows (b) is known
(c) has been known (d) had known

46. He _____ the bell for five minutes. But no one opened the door.
(a) rings (b) had been ringing
(c) have been ringing (d) has been ringing
47. After the soldiers _____ they were buried.
(a) had been slain (b) have been slain
(c) has been slain (d) having being slain
48. At the end of the year my father will have retired and _____ to our village.
(a) gone back (b) have gone back
(c) will have gone back (d) going back

Directions (Questions 49 - 53) : Analyse the given sentences and choose the correct option :

49. That the earth is round and that it can thus be circumnavigated was once a surprising fact.
(a) Compound sentence (b) Complex sentence
(c) Simple sentence
50. Those stout, healthy boys play very well.
(a) Compound sentence (b) Complex sentence
(c) Simple sentence
51. Day dawned and birds began to chirp in the trees.
(a) Compound sentence (b) Complex sentence
(c) Simple sentence
52. The team that wins the toss usually chooses to bat.
(a) Compound sentence (b) Complex sentence
(c) Simple sentence
53. I went in but I missed you and so I left.
(a) Compound sentence (b) Complex sentence
(c) Simple sentence

Directions (Questions 54 - 58) : Pick the correct clause of the words underlined in the given sentences:

54. What he told me was perfectly true
(a) Noun Clause (b) Adjective Clause
(c) Adverb Clause (d) Co-ordinate Clause
55. Everything depends on What the Director is going to say.
(a) Noun Clause (b) Adjective Clause
(c) Adverb Clause (d) Co-ordinate Clause
56. His eyes caught a heap of letters which lay on the table.
(a) Noun Clause (b) Adjective Clause
(c) Adverb Clause (d) Co-ordinate Clause
57. As the clown entered the circus ring, the children began to laugh.
(a) Noun Clause (b) Adjective Clause
(c) Adverb Clause (d) Co-ordinate Clause

58. I have known him since he was a small boy.

- (a) Noun Clause
- (b) Adjective Clause
- (c) Adverb Clause
- (d) Co-ordinate Clause

Directions (Questions 59 - 64) : Identify the correct notion expressed by each of the following sentences by choosing one of the alternatives given :

59. I shall never forget those happy days.

- (a) Assertive
- (b) Affirmative
- (c) Negative
- (d) Exclamatory

60. Where in the world will you find a mountain peak higher than Everest?

- (a) Exclamatory
- (b) Interrogative
- (c) Affirmative
- (d) Assertive

61. Oh ! how desirous I am to meet you once more.

- (a) Affirmative
- (b) Imperative
- (c) Exclamatory
- (d) Assertive

62. Whenever there is smoke, there is fire.

- (a) Imperative
- (b) Assertive
- (c) Interrogative
- (d) Affirmative

63. I was not elected Prime Minister to harm my country.

- (a) Negative
- (b) Assertive
- (c) Affirmative
- (d) Exclamatory

64. He was a man of no great intelligence.

- (a) Negative
- (b) Assertive
- (c) Affirmative
- (d) Exclamatory

Directions (Questions 65 - 72) : Identify the correct usage of words given in the alternatives below :

65. _____ is a quality that moves to action without effort.

- (a) Sympathy
- (b) Compassion
- (c) Pity
- (d) Mercy

66. The chairman expressed his _____ to this plan.

- (a) decent
- (b) descent
- (c) dissent
- (d) descend

67. Mr. William is an _____ lawyer.

- (a) imminent
- (b) eminent
- (c) imminence
- (d) eminently

68. We must _____ ourselves to our surroundings.

- (a) adopt
- (b) adept
- (c) adapt
- (d) adopting

69. The new administration hopes to _____ a peace settlement.

- (a) effect
- (b) effects
- (c) affect
- (d) affects

70. It would be helpful if you were to _____ the report with an introduction.
(a) proceed (b) precede
(c) proceeds (d) precedent
71. Being centrally located in the city, this is an ideal _____ for the hospital.
(a) cite (b) sight
(c) site (d) view
72. The _____ of hill stations is not suitable for asthmatic people
(a) weather (b) whether
(c) climate (d) stormy weather

Directions (Questions 73 - 80) : In the following sentences, a word or phrase is written in italicised letter. For each italicised part four words/phrases are listed below each sentence. Choose the word nearest in meaning to the italicised part :

73. A *posthumous* award was given to the poet.
(a) postal (b) after death
(c) creditable (d) literary
74. Rich people often have *sycophants* around them.
(a) pilots (b) sadists
(c) flatterers (d) servants
75. *Hybrid* variety of plants generally yield better crops.
(a) combined (b) transplanted
(c) complex (d) mixed
76. Before finalising this transaction, I had to sign an *indemnity* bond.
(a) a partnership bond (b) a compensation bond
(c) a security bond (d) a reparation bond
77. Timely first aid *resuscitated* the patient.
(a) soothed (b) rescued
(c) revived (d) cured
78. He was accused of *graft*.
(a) corruption (b) inefficiency
(c) favouritism (d) negligence
79. The President of India delivered an *impromptu* speech to the students.
(a) important (b) impressive
(c) inspiring (d) offhand
80. He is so *garrulous* that all sober persons avoid his company.
(a) quarrelsome (b) talkative
(c) domineering (d) foolish