

MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF SURVEYOR-I UNDER LAND REVENUE & SETTLEMENT DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM, JUNE -2019

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 of the following topics in about 300 words.
 - Problem of educated unemployed.
 - Communal Harmony.
 - Hazard of mobile phones.

SECTION - B **(80 Marks)**

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

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

Directions (Questions 1-8) : Indicate the correct meaning of the given idioms and phrases:

1. Scot free

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| (a) punished | (b) set free |
| (c) freedom | (d) unpunished |

2. few and far between

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| (a) In-between | (b) very rare |
| (c) Very near | (d) Very far |

3. next to nothing

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| (a) below zero | (b) everything |
| (c) above zero | (d) nothing |

4. by fits and starts

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| (a) regularly | (b) sometimes |
| (c) irregularly | (d) every time |

5. behind the scenes
(a) in private (b) in every scene
(c) in public (d) On the stage
6. by leaps and bounds
(a) every day (b) rapidly
(c) lazily (d) slowly
7. better – half
(a) son (b) husband
(c) daughter (d) wife
8. black and blue
(a) simply (b) quickly
(c) severely (d) deeply

Directions (Questions 9-16) : Fill in the blanks with the idioms/phrases out of the given options

9. Barking up the wrong _____.
(a) tree (b) wall
(c) joint (d) plant
10. Don't put all your _____.
(a) apples (b) oranges
(c) eggs (d) fruits
11. Don't beat a dead _____.
(a) donkey (b) goat
(c) horse (d) bush
12. Do something at the drop of a _____.
(a) cap (b) hat
(c) ball (d) pin
13. Make _____ while the sun shines.
(a) hay (b) haste
(c) progress (d) progress
14. Feel a bit under the _____.
(a) pressure (b) weather
(c) mood (d) stress
15. Are you still riding the _____?
(a) bike (b) horse
(c) goat (d) chariot
16. Live like a maggot in _____.
(a) bacon (b) salami
(c) faeces (d) meat

Directions (Questions 17 – 22): Read the following passages carefully and choose the best answer to each of the questions of the four alternatives.

“I Have a Dream” is a public speech delivered by American civil rights activist Martin Luther King Jr. during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom on August 28, 1963, in which he calls for an end to racism in the United States and called for civil and economic rights. Delivered to over 250,000 civil rights supporters from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., the speech was a defining moment of the civil rights movement.

Beginning with a reference to the Emancipation Proclamation, which freed millions of slaves in 1863, King observes that: “one hundred years later, the Negro still is not free”. Toward the end of the speech, King departed from his prepared text for a partly improvised peroration on the theme “I have a dream”, prompted by Mahalia Jackson’s cry: “Tell them about the dream, Martin!” In this part of the speech, which most excited the listeners and has now become its most famous, King described his dreams of freedom and equality arising from a land of slavery and hatred. Jon Meacham writes that, “With a single phrase, Martin Luther King Jr. joined Jefferson and Lincoln in the ranks of men who’ve shaped modern America”. The speech was ranked the top American speech of the 20th century in a 1999 poll of scholars of public address.

17. What issues does Martin Luther King’s speech address?
 - (a) Continuation of racism
 - (b) End to racism and civil and economic rights
 - (c) Civil rights
 - (d) Civil War
18. What pushes King to speak: “I have a dream”?
 - (a) He reads out the Emancipation Proclamation
 - (b) He is prompted by Mahalia Jackson
 - (c) he is overwhelmed by the crowd
 - (d) Lincoln had asked him to give the speech
19. From the last paragraph, give one word for “to leave”
 - (a) Departed
 - (b) Proclamation
 - (c) Improvised
 - (d) Address
20. What is the name of martin Luther King’s famed speech?
 - (a) The Emancipation Proclamation
 - (b) The Declaration of Independence
 - (c) A Peroration
 - (d) I Have a Dream
21. In front of whom does King speak?
 - (a) The civil rights supporters+
 - (b) His friends
 - (c) Lincoln
 - (d) The Negroes
22. What does King reference in his speech?
 - (a) The Declaration of Independence
 - (b) The Emancipation Proclamation
 - (c) The Declaration of Freedom
 - (d) The Emancipation Exclamation

Directions (Questions 23– 27): Read the following passages carefully and choose the best answer to each of the questions of the four alternatives.

Today I Rabindranath Tagore complete eighty years of my life .As I look back on the vast stretch of years that lie behind me and see in clear perspective the history of my early development, I am struck by the change that has taken place both in my own attitude and in the psychology of my countrymen – a change that carries within it a cause of profound tragedy.

Our direct contact with the larger world of men was linked up with the contemporary history of the English people whom we came to know in those earlier days. It was mainly through their mighty literature that we formed our ideas with regard to these newcomers to our Indian shores. In those days the type of learning that was served out to us was neither plentiful nor diverse, nor was the spirit of scientific enquiry very much in evidence. Thus their scope being strictly limited, the educated of those days had recourse to English language and literature. Their days and nights were eloquent with the stately declamations of Burke, with Macaulay’s long-rolling sentences; discussions centered upon Shakespeare’s drama and Byron’s poetry and above all upon the large-hearted liberalism of the nineteenth-century English politics.

At the time though tentative attempts were being made to gain our national independence, at heart we had not lost faith in the generosity of the English race. This belief was so firmly rooted in the sentiments of our leaders as to lead them to hope that the victor would of his own grace pave the path of freedom for the vanquished. This belief was based upon the fact that England at the time provided a shelter to all those who had to flee from persecution in their own country. Political martyrs who had suffered for the honour of their people were accorded unreserved welcome at the hands of the English.

I was impressed by this evidence of liberal humanity in the character of the English and thus I was led to set them on the pedestal of my highest respect. This generosity in their national character had not yet been vitiated by imperialist pride. About this time, as a boy in England, I had the opportunity of listening to the speeches of John Bright, both in and outside Parliament. The large-hearted, radical liberalism of those speeches, overflowing all narrow national bounds, had made so deep an impression on my mind that something of it lingers even today, even in these days of graceless disillusionment.

23. From the first paragraph, give a synonym for ‘deep’:
- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| (a) Perspective | (b) Profound |
| (c) Tragedy | (d) Psychology |
24. What helped the Indians to conceive of a notion of the Englishmen?
- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| (a) Their advanced weaponry | (b) Their literature |
| (c) Their orders | (d) Their administration |
25. Who could read and gain from English literature?
- | |
|--|
| (a) The educated Indians |
| (b) All the Indians |
| (c) Only writers such as Rabindranath Tagore |
| (d) None of these |
26. From the third paragraph, give an antonym for ‘victorious’
- | | |
|------------|-----------------|
| (a) Victor | (b) Vanquished |
| (c) Belief | (d) Persecution |
27. Whose speeches did Tagore listen to, as a boy?
- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| (a) Shakespeare | (b) Byron |
| (c) John Bright | (d) Macaulay |

Directions (Questions 28 – 32): Read the following passages carefully and choose the best answer to each of the questions of the four alternatives.

Like their ancient toga-wearing counterparts, modern philosophers continue to disagree on the nature of freewill. Do we really have any control over the choices we make and the things we desire, and if so, to what degree?

Theories of freewill vary, but the ancient words of Plato still line up with our modern perceptions of temptation and willpower. The revered Greek philosopher argued that the human experience is one of constant struggle between the intellect and the body, between rationality and desire. Along these lines, true freedom is only achievable when willpower unchains us from bodily, emotional, instinctual slavery.

You can find similar sentiments throughout world religions, most of which offer a particular and often difficult path to rise above our darker natures.

And science? Well, science mostly agrees with all of this. Willpower is all about overcoming your natural impulses to eat cupcakes, skip your morning workout, flirt with the waiter, hit the snooze alarm and check your e-mail during a funeral.

Your willpower, however, is limited. If life were a video game, you'd see a glowing "willpower" or "ego" meter at the top of the screen next to your "life" meter. Successfully resist one temptation, and the meter depletes a little. The next temptation depletes the "willpower" meter even more, until there's nothing left at all.

Our modern scientific understanding of willpower in large part stems from a 1996 research experiment involving chocolate and radishes. Psychologist Roy Baumeister led a study in which 67 test subjects were presented with tempting chocolate chip cookies and other chocolate-flavored treats before a persistence-testing puzzle. Here's the catch: The researchers asked some of the participants to abstain from sweets and snack on radishes instead.

Baumeister's results told a fascinating story. The test subjects who resisted the sweet stuff in favor of radishes performed poorly on the persistence test. They simply didn't have the willpower left to resist slacking off.

The resulting paper, "Ego Depletion: Is the Active Self a Limited Resource?" inspired more than a thousand additional studies discussing everything from the influence of positive messages to the ego-sapping power of daily decisions

Studies also show that cognitive capacity also affects our ability to hold out against temptation. Cognitive capacity is essentially your working memory, which you employ when resisting a temptation ... or holding a string of numbers in your head. A 1999 study from the University of Iowa professor Baba Shiv found that people tasked with remembering a two-digit number held out better than people remembering a seven-digit number when tempted with chocolate cake.

28. What do you understand by 'freewill'?

- (a) The choices we make and the things we desire
- (b) The choices that philosophers force us to make
- (c) Our perception of temptation
- (d) Our ego

29. According to Plato, when is true freedom available?

- (a) When there is a struggle between the intellect and the body
- (b) When our willpower helps us to overcome our base instincts
- (c) When we desire that which we cannot achieve
- (d) When we have no control over our ego

30. In the second paragraph, what does the expression 'line up' signify?
(a) Align with (b) disagree with
(c) Differ from (d) In discussion with
31. What is meant by 'cognitive capacity'?
(a) Willpower (b) Our ego
(c) Our ability to overcome temptation (d) The desire to give in to temptation
32. From the RC given above, find a synonym for 'respected'
(a) Cognitive (b) Temptation
(c) Desire (d) Revered

Directions (Questions 33 – 40): Choose the correct form of nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs from the alternatives given:

33. _____ was known for his wisdom and justice.
(a) Matthew (b) Solomon
(c) Mark (d) Luke
34. The _____ is a very fine epic.
(a) Mayagyata (b) Mahabharat
(c) Chakravartin (d) Two States
35. The widow _____ worried and terrified.
(a) look (b) looking
(c) looked (d) doing
36. Lightning _____ four travellers yesterday.
(a) striking (b) kill
(c) family (d) killed
37. Caste system is a _____ evil.
(a) social (b) religious
(c) family (d) international
38. _____ hair shows wisdom and experience.
(a) Grey (b) Red
(c) Green (d) Blue
39. _____ do you hail from?
(a) where (b) how
(c) why (d) when
40. She knows _____ he will come back.
(a) which (b) there
(c) when (d) somewhere

Directions (Questions 41 – 48): Fill in the blanks with correct prepositions:

41. The boy was beaten _____ the teacher.
(a) in (b) into
(c) by (d) with
42. The property was divided _____ .
(a) into (b) between
(c) under (d) upon
43. The beggar was sitting _____ the road.
(a) besides (b) into
(c) with (d) beside
44. I was born at Aizawl _____ Mizoram.
(a) in (b) into
(c) at (d) by
45. Pour the milk _____ the cup.
(a) at (b) on
(c) by (d) into
46. The shepherd was sitting _____ a rock.
(a) at (b) into
(c) on (d) between
47. I shall stay here _____ Sunday.
(a) till (b) since
(c) over (d) upon
48. The rain water seeps _____ the ground.
(a) upon (b) under
(c) on (d) above

Directions (Questions 49 – 56) : Analyze the given sentences and choose the correct option:

49. The child is going to school.
(a) affirmative (b) exclamatory
(c) assertive (d) positive
50. What a marvellous sight!
(a) interrogative (b) exclamatory
(c) affirmative (d) assertive
51. She will not listen to me.
(a) positive (b) negative
(c) assertive (d) affirmative
52. What is your name?
(a) affirmative (b) negative
(c) interrogative (d) assertive

53. You should drink more water.
(a) assertive (b) affirmative
(c) positive (d) negative
54. You look so tired! You should get more sleep.
(a) assertive (b) exclamatory
(c) positive (d) negative
55. Leave this place at once.
(a) imperative (b) affirmative
(c) affirmative (d) positive
56. Hurrah! We have won.
(a) assertive (b) exclamatory
(c) positive (d) negative

Directions (Questions 57 – 65): Analyse the given sentences and choose the correct option.

57. Everest is the highest mountain.
(a) comparative (b) superlative
(c) relative (d) positive
58. She is not as good as her friends.
(a) comparative (b) superlative
(c) positive (d) negative
59. The Mariana Trench is the deepest point on Earth.
(a) comparative (b) superlative
(c) positive (d) negative
60. Sarah and Jessie are going swimming.
(a) simple (b) compound
(c) abstract (d) complex
61. My husband was working, so I went shopping.
(a) simple (b) compound
(c) abstract (d) complex
62. I am out of paper for the printer.
(a) simple (b) compound
(c) negative (d) complex
63. Will you help me out?
(a) simple (b) compound
(c) negative (d) complex
64. Though he was very rich, he was still unhappy
(a) simple (b) compound
(c) negative (d) complex
65. He did not lie, for he was an honest man.
(a) simple (b) compound
(c) positive (d) complex

Directions (Questions 66 – 70): Use the context to help you choose the right answer:

66. When he came to know what happened to his dog, he wept and cried.
Q. What would be the opposite of wept?
(a) cheered (b) swept
(c) smiled
67. The match between United and West Ham ended in a huge upset. West Ham won 3-0 which shocked many.
Q. You could say that the match was very?
(a) one-sided (b) dominate
(c) domain
68. This poem 'Paradise lost' is a famous poem known for its ambiguity.
Q. Ambiguity means?
(a) having many interpretations (b) having many writers
(c) having a definite moral
69. She had one too many drinks and now she's extremely inebriated.
Q. Inebriated means?
(a) drunk (b) tired
(c) nearly passing out
70. In the small town of Louisville lives a indefatigable farmer who works day and night tending to his cattle and crops.
Q. Indefatigable here means?
(a) diligent (b) unmistakable
(c) well off and rich

Directions (Questions 71-75): Choose the right alternative from the given options to fill in the gaps:

71. He was naturally very _____ as a child.
(a) talent (b) talented
(c) talents (d) talen
72. I have always thought it better not to _____ in fights.
(a) interfere (b) interdetermine
(c) intern (d) interface
73. She bats her _____ as he locks eyes with him.
(a) eyelashes (b) eyelids
(c) tongue (d) lips
74. She was _____ becoming sick of him.
(a) gradually (b) gradual
(c) grade (d) residually
75. The _____ turned red and all the cars stopped.
(a) lights (b) buildings
(c) road (d) footpath

Directions (Questions 76 – 80): Fill in the blanks with the appropriate form of the words given below:

76. It is a _____ to wear skirts in our tribe.
(a) tradition (b) trend
(c) style (d) statement
77. The other day, I was watching HBO's live _____ of the Golden Globe Awards/
(a) coverage (b) news
(c) news (d) show
78. The professor's _____ the other day was very informative.
(a) presentation (b) present
(c) actions (d) presenting
79. Don't hold _____, it will only do more harm
(a) revenge (b) hate
(c) avenge (d) grudges
80. It was a very _____ gesture to do what you did the other day.
(a) noble (b) nobel
(c) manner (d) manor

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