

MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF
SOIL CONSERVATION RANGER
UNDER LAND RESOURCES, SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT,
GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM, MARCH, 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 choosing any one of the topics given below :
- The Ideal Politician.
 - Conservation of Forest cover in India
 - Transparency in Administration

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.

Direction for Questions 1 - 16 : Choose the correct meaning of the idioms given in italics :

1. We should guard ourselves against our *green-eyed* friends.
- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| (a) rich | (b) jealous |
| (c) handsome | (d) enthusiastic |
2. He has been accused of *sitting on the fence*.
- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| (a) Confused | (b) observing the scene |
| (c) hesitating between two options | (d) resting on the fence |
3. She rejected his proposal of marriage *point blank*.
- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| (a) directly | (b) poignantly |
| (c) absurdly | (d) briefly |
4. Sharon had to look *high and low* before she could find her house key.
- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| (a) nowhere | (b) always |
| (c) everywhere | (d) somewhere |

5. Corruption is a *burning question* of the day.
(a) a dying issue (b) an insignificant problem
(c) an irrelevant problem (d) a widely debated issue
6. If you pass this difficult examination, it will be a *feather in your cap*.
(a) you will get a very good job (b) additional achievement
(c) your parents will be very happy (d) You will get a scholarship for higher studies
7. A movement for world unity is *in the offing*.
(a) at the end (b) about to start
(c) on the decline (d) had started
8. Mawia is not *cut out* for this kind of work.
(a) trained (b) suitable
(c) recommended (d) considered
9. The politician was able to sway the mob with his *gift of the gab*.
(a) fluency of speech (b) flattering words
(c) abundance of promise (d) political foresight
10. Discipline is *on the wane* in schools and colleges these days.
(a) increasing (b) declining
(c) spreading (d) spiralling
11. With the existing management, the future of the company is *in doldrums*.
(a) dull (b) bright
(c) uncertain (d) secure
12. It was such a strange affair that I could not make *head or tail of it*.
(a) face it (b) tolerate it
(c) remember (d) understand it
13. After the dinner was over she refused to *foot the bill*.
(a) to pay (b) to prepare
(c) to destroy (d) to play trick
14. I did not know that he was *pulling my leg* all the time .
(a) befooling me (b) degrading me
(c) defaming me (d) complimenting me
15. Harrassed by repeated acts of injustice Peter decided to *put his foot down*.
(a) resign (b) not to yield
(c) withdraw (d) accept the proposal unconditionally
16. When the police came, the thieves *took to their heels*.
(a) were taken by surprise (b) took to flight
(c) took shelter in a tall building (d) unconditionally surrendered

Directions for Questions 17 - 21 : Read the given passage carefully and choose the correct answer given below.

In the past, man's worst enemy was nature. He lived under the continual threat of famine and pestilence, a wet summer could bring death to the whole nation and every winter was a **menace**. Mountains stood like a barrier between people and people, a sea was less a highway than an **impassable** division. Today Nature, though still an enemy, is an enemy almost completely conquered. Modern agriculture **assures** us of an ample food supply. Modern transportation has made the resources of the entire planet accessible to all its **inhabitants**. Modern medicine and sanitation allow dense populations to cover the ground without risk of pestilence. True, we are still at the mercy of the more violent natural **convulsions**. Against earthquake, flood and hurricane man has as yet, devised no **adequate** protection. At most times, Nature is no longer **formidable**, she has subdued.

17. Modern medicine has helped man
- (a) to live longer everywhere in the world
 - (b) to live a healthy life in hygienic conditions
 - (c) to live in thickly populated areas without fear of epidemics
 - (d) balance population with available resources
18. Man has not yet succeeded in controlling the furies of
- (a) earthquakes
 - (b) floods
 - (c) hurricanes
 - (d) All the three
19. Which one of the following statement best reflects the underlying conviction of the passage
- (a) Man can do wonders
 - (b) Man's knowledge has no end
 - (c) Man has been able to control Nature to a great extent
 - (d) Man has been able to control nature completely
20. In ancient times, Man had an apprehension of
- (a) famine
 - (b) epidemics
 - (c) wet summer
 - (d) All the three
21. The modern transport system is a blessing as it
- (a) has helped decrease the distance between towns and villages
 - (b) has brought comfort to both towns and villages
 - (c) has made all the commodities available to everyone
 - (d) has encouraged people to travel for pleasure

Direction for Questions 22 - 24 : Choose the words which are closest in meaning to the following words taken from the given passage:

22. menace
- (a) threat
 - (b) menial
 - (c) manage
 - (d) manual
23. Inhabitants
- (a) habit
 - (b) inhuman
 - (c) inhibit
 - (d) occupant
24. Convulsions
- (a) conversation
 - (b) disturbances
 - (c) compulsion
 - (d) convergence

Directions for Questions 25 - 28 : Choose the word which is opposite in meaning to the following words taken from the passage:

25. impassable
(a) traversable (b) passing on
(c) unnavigable (d) insurmountable
26. assures
(a) discourages (b) guarantee
(c) ensure (d) promise
27. formidable
(a) unnerving (b) powerful
(c) weak (d) impressively large
28. adequate
(a) enough (b) ample
(c) appropriate (d) insufficient

Directions for Questions 29 - 36 : Identify the part of speech of the words underlined:

29. His courage won him honour and respect.
(a) Noun (b) Adjective
(c) Pronoun (d) Adverb
30. After the storm comes the calm.
(a) Noun (b) Preposition
(c) Conjunction (d) Adverb
31. They while away precious time watching movies.
(a) Verb (b) Adverb
(c) Adjective (d) Conjunction
32. Mary pronounced the word quite correctly.
(a) Noun (b) Adjective
(c) Verb (d) Adverb
33. I will wash the clothes while you cook.
(a) Verb (b) Adverb
(c) Adjective (d) Conjunction
34. One of the wheels suddenly came off.
(a) Noun (b) Adjective
(c) Adverb (d) Verb
35. There are several books on the table.
(a) Verb (b) Adverb
(c) Adjective (d) Conjunction
36. The Up train is usually late on holidays.
(a) Noun (b) Adjective
(c) Interjection (d) Verb

Directions for Questions 37 - 42 : Fill in the blanks using the correct form of the verb:

37. It started to rain while we _____ basketball.
(a) plays (b) are playing
(c) were playing (d) had played
38. I _____ him for a long time.
(a) know (b) have known
(c) has known (d) am knowing
39. When David lived in Chennai, he _____ to the cinema once a week.
(a) goes (b) was going
(c) has been going (d) went
40. She _____ unconscious since morning.
(a) is (b) was
(c) has been (d) will be
41. When I was in Mizoram , I _____ Mamit, Lunglei and Lawngtlai.
(a) visited (b) was visited
(c) have visited (d) have been visiting
42. He used to visit us every week, but he _____ now.
(a) rarely comes (b) is rarely coming
(c) has rarely come (d) was rarely come

Directions for Questions 43 - 48 : Fill in the blanks with the correct prepositions:

43. His professional ability proves that he is cut _____ for this job.
(a) out (b) up
(c) above (d) down
44. The problem of communal discord cannot be glossed _____ by the government.
(a) at (b) into
(c) over (d) on
45. After all, the hard work has come to tell _____ your health.
(a) in (b) upon
(c) at (d) over
46. The Government acted judiciously to stave _____ the crisis.
(a) of (b) out
(c) upon (d) off
47. He has great antipathy _____ those who are hypocrites.
(a) against (b) to
(c) for (d) between
48. The whole town plunged _____ sorrow after the massacre of the students.
(a) in (b) into
(c) onto (d) at

Directions for Questions 49 - 58 : Identify whether the following are simple, compound or complex sentences:

49. The horse reared and the rider was thrown off.
(a) Simple (b) Compound
(c) Complex
50. He was a mere boy but he offered to fight the giant.
(a) Simple (b) Compound
(c) Complex
51. Healthy persons have no need of the physician.
(a) Simple (b) Compound
(c) Complex
52. The place where Buddha was cremated has recently been discovered.
(a) Simple (b) Compound
(c) Complex
53. I have no advice to offer you.
(a) Simple (b) Compound
(c) Complex
54. We came upon a hut where a peasant lived.
(a) Simple (b) Compound
(c) Complex
55. Man proposes, but God disposes.
(a) Simple (b) Compound
(c) Complex
56. Except that he hurt his hand, he was lucky.
(a) Simple (b) Compound
(c) Complex
57. They serve God well who serves His creatures.
(a) Simple (b) Compound
(c) Complex
58. His courage won him honour.
(a) Simple (b) Compound
(c) Complex

Directions for Questions 59 - 64 : Choose the correct sentence type.

59. None but a coward would say so.
(a) Affirmative (b) Negative
(c) Interrogative (d) Assertive
60. I was doubtful whether it was you.
(a) Affirmative (b) Negative
(c) Interrogative (d) Imperative

61. Oh that I had wings!
(a) Affirmative (b) Exclamatory
(c) Interrogative (d) Imperative
62. Get out of the room quickly.
(a) Affirmative (b) Exclamatory
(c) Interrogative (d) Imperative
63. Who lives if the country dies?
(a) Affirmative (b) Negative
(c) Interrogative (d) Assertive
64. Their glory can never fade.
(a) Imperative (b) Negative
(c) Interrogative (d) Assertive

Directions for Questions 65 - 74 : Choose the most suitable alternative to fill in the blanks:

65. The volcanic _____ was the cause of great devastation.
(a) outburst (b) eruption
(c) erosion (d) movement
66. Although they are not rich, they always wear _____ clothes.
(a) respectful (b) respective
(c) respectable (d) respected
67. Even a _____ glance will reveal the mystery.
(a) crude (b) critical
(c) cursory (d) curious
68. Like any other country India has its _____ share of superstitions.
(a) Peculiar (b) fair
(c) proper (d) abundant
69. We _____ trouble on our borders.
(a) comprehend (b) supplement
(c) complement (d) apprehend
70. If you drink too much, it will _____ your judgement.
(a) impede (b) impair
(c) impose (d) impose
71. Robert was _____ with a natural talent for music.
(a) given (b) found
(c) endowed (d) entrusted
72. There was a serious _____ between the two brothers.
(a) altercation (b) alteration
(c) aberration (d) assimilation
73. The committee's appeal to the people for money _____ little response.
(a) evoked (b) provoked
(c) promoted (d) provided

74. The photographs in the papers bore no _____ at all to the original.
- (a) nearness (b) resemblance
(c) identity (d) comparison

Directions for Questions 75 - 80 : Choose the alternative that best expresses the meaning of the given idiomatic phrase.

75. Get cold feet
(a) to run for life (b) to get cold
(c) to be afraid (d) to become discourteous
76. An apple of discord
(a) the cause of a contention (b) sour apple
(c) a quarrel (d) a fight for an apple
77. A skeleton in one's cupboard
(a) a skeleton in a closet (b) a secret murder
(c) something embarrassing kept as a secret (d) a hidden skeleton
78. Sail in the same boat
(a) in similar circumstances (b) sail in one boat
(c) a boat with sails (d) enjoy boating
79. A red-letter day
(a) a colourful day (b) fatal day
(c) happy and significant day (d) hapless day
80. At beck and call
(a) at rest (b) at disposal
(c) at work (d) at their desk

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