

MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
GENERAL COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF
PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATOR UNDER ART & CULTURE DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM. OCTOBER, 2021

GENERAL ENGLISH - I

Time Allowed : 3 hours

Full Marks : 100

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

Attempt all questions.

1. Write an essay on **any one** of the following topics:- (25)
 - Social Media as an Influencer of modern culture
 - Environmental Preservation : the Why's and How's
 - Peace Pays : Lessons from Mizoram
2. Write a précis of the following passage and give a suitable title:- (15)

There is an enemy beneath our feet - an enemy more deadly for his complete impartiality. He recognises no national boundaries, no political parties. Everyone in the world is threatened by him. The enemy is the earth itself. When an earthquake strikes, the world trembles. The power of a quake is greater than anything man himself can produce. But today scientists are directing a great deal of their effort into finding some way of combating earthquakes, and it is possible that at some time in the near future mankind will have discovered a means of protecting itself from earthquakes. An earthquake strikes without warning. When it does, its power is immense. If it strikes a modern city, the damage it causes is as great as if it has struck a primitive village. Gas mains burst, explosions are caused and fires are started. Underground railways are wrecked. Buildings collapse, bridges fall, dams burst, gaping crevices appear in busy streets. If the quake strikes at sea, huge tidal waves sweep inland. If it strikes in mountain regions, avalanches roar down into the valley. Consider the terrifying statistics from the past 1755: Lisbon, capital of Portugal - the city destroyed entirely and 450 killed. 1970: Peru: 50,000 killed. In 1968 an earthquake struck Alaska. As this is a relatively unpopulated part, only a few people were killed. But it is likely that this was one of the most powerful quakes ever to have hit the world. Geologists estimate that during the tremors, the whole of the state moved over 80 feet farther west into the Pacific Ocean. Imagine the power of something that can move an entire subcontinent! This is the problem that the scientists face. They are dealing with forces so immense that man cannot hope to resist them. All that can be done is to try to pinpoint just where the earthquake will strike and work from there. At least some precautionary measures can then be taken to save lives and some of the property.

3. Write a letter of no less than 150 words choosing **any one** of the following:- (15)
 - (a) To a friend who has asked you to advise him about a two-week holiday he wishes to spend in your region.

OR

 - (b) To the Branch Manager of a bank complaining of a false notification sent by the bank about defaulting on a loan.
4. Create sentences to clearly bring out the meanings of the following idioms and phrases by using them exactly as they are given:- (7×2=14)
 - (a) reinventing the wheel
 - (b) gained ground
 - (c) shades of grey
 - (d) pulled no punches
 - (e) under the weather
 - (f) go out on a limb
 - (g) all the rage

5. Expand **any one** the following sentences into a paragraph of at least fifty words illustrating its central idea:- (15)

(a) *As flies to wanton boys are we to the gods;
They kill us for their sport.*

OR

(b) A great deal of talent is lost in the world for want of a little courage.

6. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:-

The first and most important rule of legitimate or popular government, that is to say, of government whose object is the good of the people, is therefore, as I have observed, to follow in everything the general will. But to follow this will it is necessary to know it, and above all to distinguish it from the particular will, beginning with one's self: this distinction is always very difficult to make, and only the most sublime virtue can afford sufficient illumination for it. As, in order to will, it is necessary to be free, a difficulty no less great than the former arises- that of preserving at once the public liberty and the authority of government. Look into the motives that have induced men, once united by their common needs in a general society, to unite themselves still more intimately by means of civil societies: you will find no other motive than that of assuring the property, life and liberty of each member by the protection of all. But can men be forced to defend the liberty of any one among them, without trespassing on that of others? And how can they provide for the public needs, without alienating the individual property of those who are forced to contribute to them? With whatever sophistry all this may be covered over, it is certain that if any constraint be laid on my will, I am no longer free, and that I am no longer master of my own property, if anyone else can lay a hand on it. This difficulty, which would have seemed insurmountable, has been removed, like the first, by the most sublime of all institutions, or rather by a divine inspiration, which teaches mankind to imitate here below the unchangeable decrees of the Deity. By what inconceivable art has a means been found of making men free by making them subject; of using in the service of the State properties, the persons and even the lives of all its members, without constraining and without consulting them; of confining their will by their own admission, of overcoming their refusal by that consent, and forcing them to punish themselves, when they act against their own will? How can it be that all should obey, yet nobody take upon him to command, and that all should serve, and yet have no masters, but be the more free, as, in apparent subjection, each loses no part of his liberty but what might be hurtful to that of another? These wonders are the work of law. It is to law alone that men owe justice and liberty. It is this salutary organ of the will of all which establishes, in civil right, the natural equality between men. It is this celestial voice which dictates to each citizen the precepts of public reason, and teaches him to act according to the rules of his own judgement, and not to behave inconsistently with himself. It is with this voice alone that political rulers should speak when they command; for no sooner does one man, setting aside the law, claim to subject another to his private will, than he departs from the state of civil society, and confronts him face to face in the pure state of nature, in which obedience is prescribed solely by necessity.

(a) What, according to the author, has induced men to unite themselves by means of civil societies? (2)

(b) How is the paradox of preserving both public liberty and authority of the government resolved? (4)

(c) To what does the author attribute the origin of the rule of law? (2)

(d) Which words in the passage are closest in meaning to the following? (4×1=4)

(i) transcendent

(ii) reasons

(iii) infringement

(iv) divine

(e) How would you describe the author's attitude to Law? (4)