

MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF
MUSEUM GUIDE UNDER ART & CULTURE DEPARTMENT,
GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM, FEBRUARY, 2020.

A. 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.

- I. Write an essay on *any one* of the given topics in not less than 300 words. **(20)**
- Country Life versus Town Life
 - Choice of Professions
 - Youth and Social Media

SECTION - B
(50 Marks)

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

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

Directions (Questions 1 – 10): Choose the correct alternative, which expresses the meaning of the following Idioms and Phrases.

1. Hole and corner
 - (a) an old place
 - (b) a valid negotiation
 - (c) to provide shelter
 - (d) secret
2. Plough the sands
 - (a) work diligently
 - (b) ploughing the fields
 - (c) futile labour
 - (d) to become exhausted
3. Raw deal
 - (a) suspicious deal
 - (b) extravagance
 - (c) fit and strong
 - (d) unfair treatment
4. Scot-free
 - (a) without receiving any punishment
 - (b) smooth sailing
 - (c) to be free from worries
 - (d) bear hardships cheerfully

5. With a grain of salt
(a) doubtfully (b) adding taste to a dish
(c) embellishing a story (d) future provisions
6. Wild-geese chase
(a) hunting in the wild (b) an easy victory
(c) foolish and impossible enterprise (d) a clever strategy
7. Fair and square
(a) in a plain manner (b) firmly fixed in place
(c) underhandedly (d) honest
8. Eat humble pie
(a) eat heartily (b) celebrate victory
(c) suffer humiliation (d) deny oneself
9. Chew the cud
(a) recall past memories (b) suffer the consequences
(c) masticate fully (d) scold severely
10. Blow hot and cold
(a) to pick a fight (b) light up a fire
(c) to vacillate (d) change of weather

Directions (Questions 11 – 20) : Read the given passage and answer the questions by Choosing the correct alternative.

The press is a general term for all types of printed newspaper and periodicals. The first and foremost object of a newspaper is to give its readers current news of all notable events that happen at home and abroad. Thanks to the modern inventions of the Telegraph and Wireless, we get from our morning papers fresh and up-to-date reports of recent happenings even in distant countries.

A newspaper today is not a mere news-sheet as it originally was. In these days of democracy, it has developed into a 'views-paper' too. It provides not only news but also comments and critical discussions on the news published not only by itself but also elsewhere. Most newspapers are organs of political parties. Their members look to the 'editorials' or leading articles of their favourite paper for guidance in political problems and affairs. Such a paper, thus, educates public opinion in the political aims and views of the party it supports. Besides, there are neutral papers, which publish the attitudes of different political parties in an impartial way. All such newspapers, both party organs and neutral papers together form the press.

Besides, politics, the press also offers a forum for other topics of public interest. People in various spheres, who suffer from neglect, can also ventilate their grievances through the press. There are also special kinds of newspapers dealing exclusively with such subjects as religion, social reform, literature, art, science and technology, sports and amusements. A strange psychology works behind newspapers. The ordinary man is always eager for news; generally, he has views of his own. Therefore, he solely depends on the press for both news and views. Vast millions of readers without a question usually accept the news expressed through editorial comments.

Herein lies the power of the press. Government respects the press as helpful in measuring the general wishes of the people – their likes and dislikes. For the same reason, the politicians too look upon the press as their friend and ally.

The press is powerful enough to fight for the rights of the people by exposing acts of injustice and oppressions, as well as abuses in society. It is therefore clear that the press has enormous power; and therefore it has a heavy responsibility too. An honest, truthful and moral press can do a lot of good by guiding public opinion on right lines. On the other hand, if it misrepresents truth and caters to low tastes by indulging in indecencies and sensationalism; it does immense harm to public morals and becomes a horrible power for evil doing. Freedom of speech as well as of popular opinion is essential to democracy. Therefore, in democratic countries the press enjoys a good measure of freedom. There is often a chain of newspapers, which controls the whole country, and its Government. There the press is a real power, which is curbed by Government censorship in exceptional circumstances.

The press should always be an impartial guardian of the rights and liberties of the people. Guided on right lines, the free press is really a beneficial power. Even a dictator like Napoleon said, "Four hostile newspapers are more to be feared than a thousand bayonets." No freedom, however, is allowed to the press in totalitarian countries. India started a news supplying organization named SAMACHAR named after Samachar-Chandrika, the first daily newspaper in British India. It works in association with the "News Agency Pool" of the Non-Aligned states. It is an important step in the right direction to ensure correct and impartial reports.

11. The main objective of a newspaper is
 - (a) to spread literacy
 - (b) to inform the readers of current events
 - (c) to advertise new products
 - (d) to prevent infiltration
12. The true function of a newspaper is not only to provide news but also to
 - (a) uplift the status of women
 - (b) attack democracy
 - (c) provide comments and critical discussions
 - (d) increase riots and tensions in rural areas
13. The ordinary man is always eager for news because
 - (a) he can form opinionated ideas about democracy
 - (b) it is a helpful agent in solving his problems
 - (c) he can boast about current events
 - (d) he depends on the press for both news and views
- 14 Governments respect the press because
 - (a) it helps in measuring the general wishes of the people
 - (b) it is a reliable source to know on whose side the majority of the people are
 - (c) it is an agent to curb discrepancies
 - (d) it helps in solving the Government's financial status
15. The Politicians look upon the press as
 - (a) an enemy
 - (b) a source of income
 - (c) a friend and ally
 - (d) an accomplice
16. The press is powerful in the sense that
 - (a) it can voice partial opinions
 - (b) it can grant loans to backward societies
 - (c) it can offer jobs to young journalists
 - (d) it can fight for the rights of the people

17. What duties and responsibilities are entrusted with the press?
- (a) to guide public opinion on right lines
 - (b) to exercise enormous power over the people
 - (c) to be partial in supporting political parties
 - (d) to put the Government under its control
18. Democracy stands for
- (a) freedom to immigrate to other countries
 - (b) freedom of speech and popular opinion
 - (c) freedom of speech and moral responsibility
 - (d) freedom in supporting under-privileged classes
19. The press can also be a harmful agent if
- (a) it publishes updated news
 - (b) it indulges in indecencies and sensationalism
 - (c) it publishes articles from different parties
 - (d) it adheres to the likes and dislikes of the people
20. The press is expected to enforce impartiality to the rights and liberties of the people by
- (a) publishing false and outdated reports
 - (b) publishing more articles on amusements
 - (c) catering to low tastes
 - (d) providing correct and impartial reports

Directions (Questions 21 – 30): Identify the Parts of Speech of the underlined words.

21. There is more evidence yet to be offered.
- (a) adjective
 - (b) preposition
 - (c) conjunction
 - (d) adverb
22. They while away their evenings with books and games.
- (a) noun
 - (b) adverb
 - (c) verb
 - (d) adjective
23. Never put off till tomorrow what you can do today.
- (a) preposition
 - (b) adverb
 - (c) adjective
 - (d) conjunction
24. There is much sense in what he says.
- (a) adjective
 - (b) adverb
 - (c) preposition
 - (d) verb
25. At thirty a change came over him.
- (a) conjunction
 - (b) adverb
 - (c) adjective
 - (d) preposition
26. He must either work or starve.
- (a) adverb
 - (b) preposition
 - (c) conjunction
 - (d) adjective

27. We shall not see his like again.
(a) noun (b) adverb
(c) adjective (d) noun
28. You are paying less attention to your studies than you used to do.
(a) adjective (b) preposition
(c) adverb (d) conjunction
29. We went away after they had left.
(a) conjunction (b) adjective
(c) preposition (d) noun
30. There is something pleasing about him.
(a) noun (b) preposition
(c) verb (d) adverb

Directions (Questions 31 – 35): Analyze the following sentences and choose the correct alternative.

31. He not only robbed the poor child but also murdered her.
(a) compound sentence (b) simple sentence
(c) complex sentence (d) none of these
32. To avoid punishment he ran away.
(a) compound sentence (b) simple sentence
(c) complex sentence (d) none of these
33. We came upon a hut where a peasant lived.
(a) compound sentence (b) simple sentence
(c) complex sentence (d) none of these
34. I have given him my advice, yet he has done this foolish thing.
(a) compound sentence (b) simple sentence
(c) complex sentence (d) none of these
35. Due to ignorance he has committed this mistake.
(a) compound sentence (b) simple sentence
(c) complex sentence (d) none of these

Directions (Questions 36 – 40): Choose the correct answer from the given alternatives.

36. Borrowing is not as good as lending.
(a) positive (b) negative
(c) affirmative (d) comparative
37. The fort was not surrendered until it was burnt.
(a) affirmative (b) positive
(c) negative (d) assertive
38. How foolish of me to ask for money!
(a) assertive (b) comparative
(c) exclamatory (d) positive

39. It is sad that a friend should be false.
(a) assertive (b) positive
(c) affirmative (d) negative
40. It is foolish to waste money on luxuries.
(a) positive (b) affirmative
(c) comparative (d) assertive

Directions (Questions 41 – 45): Fill in the blanks with the correct form of words.

41. He asked me whether _____ of the applicants was suitable.
(a) each (b) neither
(c) either (d) some
42. The means employed by you _____ sufficient.
(a) is (b) was
(c) are (d) does
43. Either the cat or the dog _____ been here.
(a) have (b) has
(c) was (d) having
44. _____ they were I really cannot specify.
(a) whom (b) what
(c) who (d) how
45. These orders should be complied _____ by all.
(a) now (b) to
(c) against (d) with

Directions (Questions 46 – 50): Choose from the alternatives provided the nearest in meaning to the underlined word.

46. The police report exonerated them from all charges of corruption.
(a) free from blame (b) to become larger
(c) compliment excessively (d) destroy utterly
47. The traitor had a clandestine meeting with a spy.
(a) prearranged (b) hurried
(c) secret (d) important
48. Will the government promulgate new legislation to curb drugs?
(a) invent (b) advocate
(c) force upon (d) proclaim publicly
49. In some religions there is segregation of men and women during services.
(a) keeping separate (b) encroachment
(c) irritation (d) reimpose
50. We kept swatting the ubiquitous flies.
(a) pleasant (b) servile
(c) antique (d) present everywhere