

MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

GENERAL COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF JUNIOR ENGINEER UNDER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT NOVEMBER, 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 (not more than 300 words): **(20)**
- Family Planning
 - Mass media and cultural invasion
 - Urbanization and its hazards

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 Nos. 1 - 12): Read the following passages carefully and choose the best answer to each questions:

The window offered view of the house opposite. The two families did not speak to each other because of a property dispute. One day, Ruchira's textbooks lay untouched as the young girl's gaze was on the happenings in the house opposite. There were two new faces in the neighbouring household- that of an elderly widow and a girl aged sixteen. Sometimes the elderly lady would sit by the window, doing the young girl's hair. On other days she was absent.

The new young neighbour's daily routine could be seen through the window- she cleaned the rice paddy; split nuts, put the cushions in the sun to air them. In the afternoons while the men were all at work, some of the women slept and some played cards. The girl sat on the terrace and read. Sometimes she wrote. One day there was a hindrance. She was writing when the elderly woman snatched the unfinished letter from her hands. Thereafter the girl was not to be seen on the terrace. Sometimes during the day sounds came out from the house indicating that an argument was going on inside.

A few days passed. One evening Ruchira noticed the girl standing on the terrace in tears. The evening prayer was in progress. As she did daily, the girl bowed several times in prayer. Then she went downstairs.

That night Ruchira wrote a letter. She went out and posted it that very instant. But as she lay in bed that night, she prayed fervently that her offer of friendship wouldn't reach its destination. Ruchira then left for Madhupur and returned when it was time for college to start. She found the house opposite in darkness, locked. They had left.

When she stepped into her room she found the desk piled with letters - one had a local stamp on it with her name and address in unfamiliar handwriting. She quickly read it. They continued to write to each other for the next twenty years.

1. Why did Ruchira write a letter to her new neighbor?
 - (a) She wanted to offer her, her help.
 - (b) She wanted to be friends with her.
 - (c) To apologize for her family's behavior towards her family.
 - (d) To encourage her to continue learning to read and write.
2. Which of the following is true about Ruchira?
 - (a) She used to spy on her neighbours because she didn't trust them.
 - (b) She was at home because she was studying.
 - (c) She did not speak to her neighbours because they did not own property.
 - (d) She wanted to find out what was happening in her neighbour's house.
3. How did the new young neighbor spend her days?
 - (a) She was busy writing letters to Ruchira.
 - (b) She used to write songs and sing.
 - (c) She would attend to the needs of the widow.
 - (d) She spent her time learning to read and write.
4. Why was the young neighbor prevented from sitting on the terrace?
 - (a) She used to while away her time instead of working.
 - (b) The old woman could no longer keep an eye on her.
 - (c) She had not finished writing the letter she was asked to.
 - (d) She had been writing a letter which she wasn't supposed to.
5. What was the major argument in the house about?
 - (a) There were too many people living there, which resulted in arguments.
 - (b) The young girl was insisting on attending college.
 - (c) The young girl had been wasting her time instead of working.
 - (d) The old woman did not guard the young girl closely.
6. Which of the following is true in the context of the passage?
 - (a) The young girl was very devout and prayed everyday.
 - (b) Only two letters were exchanged between the two girls.
 - (c) The young new girl was a servant.
 - (d) The afternoon was a time to relax for everyone.
7. Why did the young girl wish that the letter wouldn't reach its destination?
 - (a) She was going away and would not be able to see if her neighbor was glad to receive it.
 - (b) She was afraid that the letter would lead to a quarrel between the two families.
 - (c) She was afraid that her offer of friendship would be rejected.
 - (d) She was afraid that her neighbour would be angry to receive her letter.
8. When Ruchira returned from Madhupur, what did she find?
 - (a) She found two letters on her desk.
 - (b) She found many letters from the young neighbour on her desk.
 - (c) She found a pile of letters on her desk from Madhupur.
 - (d) She found all her letters returned to her.

Directions (Questions 9-12): Choose the word used in the passage which is nearest to the meaning of the given words.

9. Hindrance

- (a) Handicapped
- (b) Delay
- (c) Interrupt
- (d) Difficult

10. Offered

- (a) Forward
- (b) Willing
- (c) Volunteered
- (d) Provided

11. Argument

- (a) Debate
- (b) Dispute
- (c) Agree
- (d) Compromise

12. Grabbed

- (a) Snatched
- (b) Touched
- (c) Brushed
- (d) Squeezed

Directions (Questions 13 – 28): Indicate the correct Idioms and Phrases given in the options:

13. Leaders should not only make speeches they should also be prepared **to bell the cat**.

- (a) to take lead in danger
- (b) forget things in between
- (c) go on at great length
- (d) become boisterous

14. Dowry is a **burning question** of the day.

- (a) a widely debated issue
- (b) a dying issue
- (c) a relevant issue
- (d) an irrelevant issue

15. I did not mind what he was saying, he was only **through his head**.

- (a) talking nonsense
- (b) talking ignorantly
- (c) talking irresponsibly
- (d) talking insultingly

16. He is **out and out** a reactionary.

- (a) no more
- (b) thoroughly
- (c) in favour of
- (d) deadly against

17. I am afraid he is burning **the candle at both ends** and ruining his life.

- (a) wasting his money
- (b) becoming overgenerous
- (c) overtaxing his energies
- (d) losing his objectives

18. Since he knew what would happen, he should be left to **stew in his own juice**.

- (a) make a stew
- (b) boil
- (c) suffer in his own juice
- (d) suffer for his own act

19. To hit the nail right on the head

- (a) to do the right thing
- (b) to destroy one's reputation
- (c) to announce one's fixed views
- (d) to teach someone a lesson

20. A man of straw

- (a) a man of no substance
- (b) a very active person
- (c) a worthy fellow
- (d) an unreasonable person

21. To play second fiddle
(a) to be happy, cheerful and healthy
(b) to reduce importance of one's senior
(c) to support the role and view of another person
(d) to do back seat driving
22. To pick holes
(a) to find some reason to quarrel
(b) to destroy something
(c) to criticize something
(d) to cut some part of an item
23. To end in smoke
(a) to make completely understand
(b) to ruin oneself
(c) to excite great applause
(d) to overcome someone
24. To have an axe to grind
(a) a private end to serve
(b) to fail to arouse interest
(c) to have no result
(d) to work for both sides
25. close examinations
(a) to beg the question
(b) at close quarters
(c) at one's fingertips
(d) to make clean breast of
26. To suspect foul dealings
(a) to smell a rat
(b) to smell something burning
(c) backstairs influence
(d) secret and unfair influence
27. Do without the help of others
(a) on the wane
(b) make both ends meet
(c) plough a lonely furrow
(d) a man of steel
28. Die while still working
(a) die with honour
(b) die in harness
(c) stuck up
(d) to end in smoke

Directions (Question 29-38): Choose the correct Parts of Speech for the underlined words:

29. She jogged up the street for a few miles.
(a) verb
(b) pronoun
(c) noun
(d) conjunction
30. The teacher handed back the tests today.
(a) verb
(b) adverb
(c) pronoun
(d) noun
31. Rebecca gave her a present yesterday.
(a) verb
(b) pronoun
(c) adverb
(d) noun
32. We saw a lion at the zoo during our trip.
(a) adverb
(b) conjunction
(c) noun
(d) pronoun

33. He found his shoes under the bed.
(a) preposition (b) adverb
(c) verb (d) noun
34. Please give them your full attention.
(a) pronoun (b) noun
(c) verb (d) adverb
35. She thought of a wise plan.
(a) noun (b) adverb
(c) verb (d) pronoun
36. That was a lovely evening.
(a) noun (b) adjective
(c) verb (d) adverb
37. My father works in a factory.
(a) noun (b) pronoun
(c) verb (d) preposition
38. I helped him because I liked him.
(a) verb (b) adverb
(c) conjunction (d) noun

Directions (Questions 39 – 48): Fill in the blanks choosing the correct option given:

39. The poor woman had seen _____ days.
(a) happy (b) good
(c) happier (d) very good
40. James's wife accused him _____ cheating.
(a) for (b) of
(c) with (d) to
41. I went to the park _____ my bike.
(a) on (b) by
(c) in (d) at
42. Did you see Angela _____ the party?
(a) in (b) at
(c) on (d) during
43. Samuel did all the sums _____.
(a) correct (b) correctly
(c) false (d) wrongly
44. This problem is _____ difficult for me to solve.
(a) so (b) too
(c) very (d) much
45. Neither my friend nor I _____ to blame.
(a) am (b) is
(c) are (d) was

46. He _____ two breads.
(a) had ate (b) have eaten
(c) had eat (d) has eaten
47. The teacher has a _____ opinion of that boy.
(a) Good (b) high
(b) Fair (d) well
48. He knows me _____ than you.
(a) well (b) good
(c) better (d) nicer

Directions (Questions 49 – 58) : Choose the correct sentence type from the given options :

49. Though he was very rich, he was still unhappy.
(a) complex sentence (b) compound sentence
(c) simple sentence (d) compound-complex sentence
50. I really didn't like the movie, even though the acting was good.
(a) complex sentence (b) compound sentence
(c) simple sentence (d) compound-complex sentence
51. Katniss can survive in the forest, and she is a capable archer.
(a) complex sentence (b) compound sentence
(c) simple sentence (d) compound-complex sentence
52. When we won the state championship, the team captain jumped for joy, and the fans cheered.
(a) complex sentence (b) compound sentence
(c) simple sentence (d) compound-complex sentence
53. You have earned his gratitude, so you shall not go unrewarded.
(a) complex sentence (b) compound sentence
(c) simple sentence (d) compound-complex sentence
54. There is no way we can reach there today.
(a) affirmative sentence (b) negative sentence
(c) imperative sentence (d) interrogative sentence
55. Please issue an order today.
(a) affirmative sentence (b) negative sentence
(c) imperative sentence (d) interrogative sentence
56. It is a beautiful landscape painting.
(a) affirmative sentence (b) negative sentence
(c) imperative sentence (d) interrogative sentence
57. What a fierce competition it was!
(a) Affirmative sentence (b) interrogative sentence
(c) exclamatory sentence (d) imperative sentence
58. Is there any hierarchy in the organization?
(a) affirmative sentence (b) interrogative sentence
(c) exclamatory sentence (d) imperative sentence

Directions (Questions 59-64): Choose the correct synthesis from the sentences given in options:

59. She stood on tip-toe. She reached for the mangoes on the tree.
- (a) She reached for the mangoes on the tree by standing tip-toe.
 - (b) She reached for the mangoes on the tree when she stood on tip-toe.
 - (c) Standing on tip-toe, she reached for the mangoes on the tree.
 - (d) She reached the mangoes on the tree and standing on tip-toe.
60. India will win the world cup. That is certain.
- (a) It is certain India would win the world cup.
 - (b) India will certainly win the world Cup.
 - (c) Certainly, India will win the World Cup.
 - (d) India will win the World Cup certainly.
61. Rabindranath Tagore was a great poet. He was a good painter.
- (a) Rabindranath Tagore was not only a great poet, and also a good painter.
 - (b) Besides being a great poet, Rabindranath Tagore was a good painter.
 - (c) Rabindranath Tagore was a great poet as well as a good painter.
 - (d) Rabindranath Tagore was a great poet and also a painter.
62. Her younger brother is in Canada. He is a lecturer at a prestigious university.
- (a) Her younger brother is a lecturer at a prestigious university in Canada.
 - (b) Her younger brother, who is in Canada, is a lecturer at a prestigious university.
 - (c) Her younger brother is a lecturer at a prestigious Canadian University.
 - (d) Her Canada based younger brother is a lecturer at a prestigious University.
63. Sheena will not spend her money. She will not invest it.
- (a) Sheena will neither spend her money nor invest it.
 - (b) Sheena will not spend her money and will not invest it.
 - (c) Sheena will either spend her money or invest it.
 - (d) Sheena will not spend her money or will not invest it either.
64. The servant mopped the room; she found a wallet lying in the corner.
- (a) The servant found a wallet while mopping the corner of the room.
 - (b) The servant founded a wallet lying in the corner while mopping the room.
 - (c) The servant mopped the room and found a wallet lying in the corner.
 - (d) While mopping the room, the servant found a wallet lying in a corner.

Directions (Questions 65 – 72): Choose the right one word substitution from the given options:

65. Commencement of words with the same letter.
- (a) pun
 - (b) alliteration
 - (c) oxymoron
 - (d) metaphor
66. Story of all time gods or heroes.
- (a) lyric
 - (b) epic
 - (c) legend
 - (d) romance
67. A person who is indifferent to pains and pleasure of life.
- (a) Stoic
 - (b) Sadist
 - (c) Psychiatrist
 - (d) Aristocrat
68. A disease which spreads by contact.
- (a) incurable
 - (b) infectious
 - (c) contagious
 - (d) fatal

69. One who studies insect life.
(a) geologist (b) zoologist
(c) entomologist (d) botanist
70. One who has a good taste for food.
(a) gourmet (b) curator
(c) parasite (d) chef
71. One who is able to use the right and left hands equally well.
(a) sinister (b) ambidextrous
(c) ambivalent (d) amateur
72. To examine one's own thoughts and feelings.
(a) meditation (b) retrospection
(c) reflection (d) introspection

Directions (Questions 73- 80) : Choose the right usage from the given options:

73. We have all been _____ you.
(a) Thinking about (b) Thought of
(c) Thinking for (d) Thought about
74. Do you think he _____ what I said?
(a) Understood (b) Understanding
(c) Understand (d) Had understood
75. I have never _____ sushi again.
(a) Eaten (b) Ate
(c) Eat (d) eats
76. She _____ living here for two years.
(a) Has been (b) Have been
(c) Has (d) are
77. I will _____ the offer made to me.
(a) Decline (b) Deny
(c) Refuse (d) stop
78. The baby bird was _____ by its mother.
(a) Abandons (b) Abandon
(c) Abandoning (d) abandoned
79. If I _____ the recruiting officer, I would not take bribes.
(a) am (b) was
(c) were (d) have been
80. Who _____ a fire outside my house?
(a) light (b) lighted
(c) lit (d) lights