

MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

GENERAL COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF JUNIOR GRADE OF MIZORAM PLANNING, ECONOMICS & STATISTICAL SERVICE UNDER PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION DEPARTMENT.

JANUARY, 2020

GENERAL ENGLISH

Time Allowed : 3 hours

Full Marks : 100

Marks for each question is indicated against it.

Attempt all questions.

1. Write an essay not less than 500 words on any one (1) of the topics given below: (25)

- The importance of self-discipline
- Communal Harmony
- NGOs in Mizoram- merits and demerits.

2. Write a precis of the given passage, giving it a suitable title: (15)

All persons are equal. This seems obvious to me. Now, I am aware of the overused objection to this, that is, that we are not equal in many ways. We are not all equally strong, or equally tall, or capable of doing an equal amount of work, or equally beautiful, etc. And we certainly all differ greatly in our personalities. However, I fail to see what this argument is attempting to establish. Because people are different does not mean they are not equal. I do not recall saying all people were identical with one another. No, people are not even identical with themselves over time. Equality is measured in terms of worth, of value. And all people have equal worth and equal value. There is no person who is inferior to any other person, ever. As Hobbes said in Leviathan, despite our physical differences, the smallest, weakest person could kill the strongest, so the argument about physical differences is no basis for justifying inequality. This argument is even more senseless when it is used to discriminate against gender or race. It would be a grave error to suppose that a particular sex, or a particular race is superior to another based solely on their physical attributes. There are so many worthy activities that do not require physical strength, and to use that as a marker of superiority is absolutely ridiculous.

3. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

The economic system of any country is largely dependent upon the efficiency of its transport system. Without the help of a good transport system, the expansion in national and international trade would never take place. Broadly, the means of transport both for purposes of trade and social activity can be classified into three main divisions; land, water and air. We are, here, concerned with transport of trade. Of all the forms of transport, road transport has shown the greatest growth in recent years. Road transport is also used as complementary means of transport for other types of transport. Roads are indispensable link for carrying goods and people to and from railway stations, ports and airports. Transport by road may be both vehicular and non-vehicular. Non-vehicular transportation includes both animal and man. Animals such as horses, mules and yaks are frequently used for carrying goods and passengers in hilly areas. Camel is the only means of transport in desert areas. Man is also sometimes used to carry goods. In hilly areas porters and coolies carry goods on their backs and heads. This type of transport is generally used when animals, carts or vehicles cannot be used. Vehicular transport in developing countries

includes the ancient bullock carts, as well as the modern automobiles. The invention of modern automobiles has been of great significance to modern industry and commerce because of their high speed and low cost per kilometer. The introduction of railways has been vital in the growth of industrialisation. Railways are useful in carrying heavy and bulky goods over long distances. They are especially favoured because, unlike other modes of transport, they are unaffected by weather conditions. Water transport is one of the oldest forms of cargo transport. Though it is slow, it is the cheapest form of transport. Water transport includes inland transport and ocean transport. Inland waterways are rivers and canals. Ocean or sea transport is very important for the growth of foreign trade of any country, especially as it is cheaper than air transport. It is particularly useful for carrying bulk goods over long distances, especially when time is not the essential factor. The greatest advantage of air transport is that it has reduced the time and distance barrier to a great extent. However, air transport is the costliest means of transport because of the high cost of planes, their operation and maintenance. It is generally used rather sparingly for carrying light freight.

I. Answer the following questions: (5×3=15)

- (a) In what way is road transport 'a complementary means of transport for other types of transport'?
- (b) When is man used as means of transporting goods?
- (c) What types of vehicles do you think are included in the word 'automobiles'?
- (d) What are some of the disadvantages of inland waterways as a means of transport?
- (e) What are the advantages and disadvantages of air transport?

II. Find words from the passage which convey similar meaning as the following: (5×1=5)

- (a) growth (b) needed by another for completion
- (c) essential (d) dependable
- (e) suddenly

4. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate prepositions given in brackets: (10×1=10)

- (a) The meeting ended _____ 5:00 PM. (on, at, in)
- (b) The food was divided _____ the three of us. (between, among, with)
- (c) She lives in the apartment _____ mine. (below, under, on)
- (d) The dog was beaten _____ a stick. (by, with, from)
- (e) The police promised to inquire _____ the matter of the theft. (about, on, into)
- (f) I cannot agree _____ this proposal. (to, with, on)
- (g) My uncle deals _____ all sorts of business and trade. (with, about, in)
- (h) He sat _____ me in class. (beside, besides, aside)
- (i) He apologised _____ his treatment of me. (about, over, for)
- (j) Place the eggs _____ the basket. (in, inside, into)

5. Complete the sentences using a preposition and **one** of the following verbs provided:

(10×1=10)

cause escape go help interrupt live
play solve spend walk

- (a) Do you feel _____ out this evening?
- (b) It took us a long time but we finally succeeded _____ the problem.
- (c) I've always dreamed _____ in a small house by the sea.
- (d) The driver of the other car accused me _____ the accident.
- (e) There was a fence around the lawn to stop people _____ on the grass.

- (f) Forgive me _____ you but may I ask you something?
- (g) Where are you thinking _____ your holidays this year?
- (h) The guards weren't able to prevent the prisoner _____.
- (i) I wanted to cook the meal by myself but Puia insisted _____ me.
- (j) I'm sorry we've had to cancel our game of badminton tomorrow. I was really looking forward _____.

6. Choose the right alternative:

(10×1=10)

- (a) Mawii didn't go/hasn't gone to work yesterday. She wasn't feeling well.
- (b) Look! That fellow over there wears/is wearing the same shirt as you.
- (c) I still do not know what to do. I didn't decide/haven't decided as yet.
- (d) I wonder why Lawma is/is being so nice to me today.
- (e) Pari had a text book in front of her but she didn't read/wasn't reading it.
- (f) When the Headmaster heard the news, he wasn't/hasn't been very pleased.
- (g) I need a new job. I'm doing/I've been doing the same job for too long.
- (h) 'James has gone out.' 'Oh, has he? What time did he go/has he gone?'
- (i) Where are you coming/do you come from? Are you Indian?
- (j) Albert and Tina have been married since 5 years/for 5 years.

7. Make sentences to bring out the correct meaning of the idioms and phrases (**any five**): (5×2=10)

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|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| (a) Nip in the bud | (b) Bite the dust |
| (c) An uphill task | (d) Turn a deaf ear |
| (e) Sitting on the fence | (f) Bury the hatchet |
| (g) A blot from the blue | (h) Make a clean sweep |
| (i) Crocodile tears | (j) Put one's foot down |

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