

MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

GENERAL COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF RESEARCH INVESTIGATOR (ARCHAEOLOGY) CONTRACT UNDER ART & CULTURE DEPARTMENT, AUGUST, 2016.

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 in not more than 300 words
 - Youth and Social Media
 - Globalisation and its Impact on Mizo Culture
 - Traffic problems and Solutions

SECTION - B

(80 Marks)

All questions carry equal mark of 2 each. Attempt all questions.

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

Directions (Questions 1-16): From the four alternatives given below, choose the correct meaning of the idioms and phrases given in italics in the sentence:

1. He *lost heart* when he found out that he had not been selected for the job.
 - (a) became desperate
 - (b) felt sad
 - (c) became angry
 - (d) became discouraged
2. The company has a new product *in the pipeline* which they are confident will be a success.
 - (a) In production
 - (b) stuck in a pipe
 - (c) selling
 - (d) introduced
3. He's *up to his ears* in work and cannot leave the office right now.
 - (a) fully occupied with
 - (b) very interested in
 - (c) concerned with
 - (d) has an earache
4. We can't help but admire the way *she sticks to her guns*.
 - (a) holds on to her gun
 - (b) maintains her opinion
 - (c) doesn't let her weapons go
 - (d) refuses to shoot

5. He would rather *buy some more time* by not deciding yet.
- (a) pay a little longer (b) get a better price
(c) pay a little later (d) delay a little longer
6. I'm warning you: don't let them *make a monkey of you*.
- (a) make you jump up and down (b) make faces at you
(c) make you spend money (d) make a fool of you
7. You'll have to raise your voice a little when talking to him. He's a little *hard of hearing*.
- (a) stubborn (b) quiet
(c) deaf (d) distracted
8. This business will not make us rich but at least its *keeping our head above water*.
- (a) not drowning (b) keeping dry
(c) managing to survive (d) trying to swim
9. Her parents are puzzled over why she did that, it really *doesn't add up*.
- (a) doesn't make sense (b) doesn't calculate
(c) makes the wrong addition (d) is the wrong total
10. She has a *bee in her bonnet* about people keeping their dogs under control.
- (a) a headache (b) a dog bite
(c) a problem on her mind (d) a hair problem
11. He used to *pass himself off* as a Government official.
- (a) pretend to be (b) was thought to be
(c) regarded as (d) is looked upon
12. Even though we met after a long time, he gave me the *cold shoulder*.
- (a) abused me (b) scolded me
(c) insulted me (d) ignored me
13. Never trust a man who *blows his own trumpet*.
- (a) praises others (b) praises himself
(c) flatters (d) talks loudly
14. It doesn't matter what you say to her because she's *got a very thick skin*.
- (a) not affected by criticism (b) not interested in criticism
(c) has a skin disorder (d) is overweight
15. It's no use asking their neighbours to help because they won't *lift a finger*.
- (a) show the way (b) share property
(c) do anything to help (d) carry goods
16. The trouble with their boss is if he doesn't like a project, he simply *throws cold water on it*.
- (a) washes it completely (b) cleans it thoroughly
(c) stops talking (d) discourages it completely

Directions (Questions 17-32): Read the following passage carefully and choose the appropriate response to each of the questions out of the four alternatives:

Five score years ago, a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand today, signed the Emancipation Proclamation. This momentous decree came as a great beacon light of hope to millions of Negro slaves who had been seared in the flames of withering injustice. It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of captivity. But one hundred years later, the Negro still is not free. One hundred years later, the life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination... In a sense we've come to our nation's Capital to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men, yes, black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her citizens of colour are concerned. Instead of honouring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check; a check which has come back marked "insufficient funds." But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt... We have also come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of now. This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilising drug of gradualism. Now is the time to make real the promises of democracy. Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice.

It would be fatal for the nation to overlook the urgency of the moment. This sweltering summer of the Negro's legitimate discontent will not pass until there is an invigorating autumn of freedom and equality. Nineteen sixty-three is not an end, but a beginning. Those who hope that the Negro needed to blow off steam and will now be content will have a rude awakening if the nation returns to business as usual. But there is something that I must say to my people who stand on the warm threshold which leads into the palace of justice. In the process of gaining our rightful place we must not be guilty of wrongful deeds. Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred. We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline. We must not allow our creative protest to degenerate into physical violence. Again and again we must rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force.

The marvelous new militancy which has engulfed the Negro community must not lead us to a distrust of all white people, for many of our white brothers, as evidenced by their presence here today, have come to realise that their destiny is tied up with our destiny. And they have come to realise that their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom. We cannot walk alone.

We can never be satisfied as long as the Negro is the victim of the unspeakable horrors of police brutality. We can never be satisfied as long as our bodies, heavy with the fatigue of travel, cannot gain lodging in the motels of the highways and the hotels of the cities. We cannot be satisfied as long as the Negro's basic mobility is from a smaller ghetto to a larger one. We can never be satisfied as long as our children are stripped of their selfhood and robbed of their dignity by signs stating "for whites only." We cannot be satisfied as long as a Negro in Mississippi cannot vote and a Negro in New York believes he has nothing for which to vote. No, no, we are not satisfied, and we will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.

I am not unmindful that some of you have come here out of great trials and tribulations. Go back ... knowing that somehow this situation can and will be changed. Let us not wallow in the valley of despair.

I say to you today, my friends, so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal." I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the

sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood. I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice. I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together. This is our hope. This is the faith that I will go back to the South with. With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. This will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with new meaning, "My country 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the Pilgrims' pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring."

17. What is the 'withering injustice' that the speech refers to?
 - (a) falling leaves
 - (b) slavery
 - (c) racism
 - (d) burning flames
18. What is a promissory note?
 - (a) a cheque
 - (b) a love letter
 - (c) a written promise
 - (d) a signed envelope
19. The urgency of the issue highlighted in the speech is
 - (a) fierce
 - (b) luxurious
 - (c) tranquilising
 - (d) cooling
20. How many years is five score years?
 - (a) five years
 - (b) hundred years
 - (c) fifty years
 - (d) twenty years
21. The promissory note has been defaulted against
 - (a) American citizens
 - (b) Americans of colour
 - (c) white men
 - (d) the bank of justice
22. The struggle should be conducted on a plane of
 - (a) dignity and discipline
 - (b) physical level
 - (c) bitterness
 - (d) creativity
23. What is meant by the term 'blow off steam'?
 - (a) get rid of strong emotion
 - (b) blow away air
 - (c) create steam
 - (d) be noisy
24. Which of the following is NOT an injustice to Negroes as stated in the speech?
 - (a) police brutality
 - (b) not allowed lodgings
 - (c) not given voting rights
 - (d) not allowed to marry
25. From what does the speaker hope to get a stone of hope?
 - (a) cup of justice
 - (b) mighty stream
 - (c) mountain of despair
 - (d) table of brotherhood

26. The main focus of the speech is
- (a) getting more money for America's black population
 - (b) convincing people to live in peace
 - (c) celebrating anniversary of Emancipation proclamation
 - (d) ending segregation and racial injustice in America
27. Segregation is opposed to
- (a) democracy
 - (b) racial justice
 - (c) discipline
 - (d) nationhood
28. The speaker urges his listeners to
- (a) work towards gradual change
 - (b) use any means necessary
 - (c) demand equality and justice now
 - (d) distrust white people
29. The speech does not contain
- (a) repeated phrases
 - (b) quotation from songs
 - (c) references to the Bible
 - (d) thanks to distinguished guests
30. The speaker used the image of "the valley" to represent
- (a) justice
 - (b) bad times
 - (c) the future
 - (d) peace
31. Which of the following metaphors is NOT used in the speech?
- (a) compares African-Americans to slaves
 - (b) compares segregation to manacles
 - (c) compares discrimination to chains
 - (d) compares injustice to heat
32. In which year was this speech made?
- (a) 1963
 - (b) 1863
 - (c) 1950
 - (d) 1947

Directions (Questions 33-38): Identify the correct form of prepositions from the alternatives given under each sentence:

33. The child demanded attention from his mother ___ throwing a tantrum.
- (a) with
 - (b) by
 - (c) over
 - (d) from
34. Kindly put your mobile phones, calculators and laptops ___ the table.
- (a) at
 - (b) above
 - (c) on
 - (d) in
35. Europe and the U.S. are still in dispute ___ how much each country should pay towards the upkeep of the International Space Station.
- (a) over
 - (b) for
 - (c) with
 - (d) on

36. The new ring road stops all the traffic driving _____ the centre of town.
(a) through (b) over
(c) in (d) by
37. Almost all car companies now care _____ the environment.
(a) for (b) at
(c) with (d) about
38. We didn't see the whole performance because we left _____ the last act.
(a) on (b) out
(c) before (d) at

Directions (Questions 39-44) : Identify the parts of speech of each underlined words:

39. They decided to have a leisurely lunch after the meeting ended.
(a) adverb (b) adjective
(c) preposition (d) noun
40. The wheels of the judiciary move too slowly for the common man.
(a) verb (b) conjunction
(c) adverb (d) adjective
41. We reached home late at night but did not sleep immediately.
(a) preposition (b) adverb
(c) conjunction (d) noun
42. You have to believe in yourself if you ever expect to be successful at something.
(a) pronoun (b) adjective
(c) interjection (d) noun
43. The manager recommended me for the new position.
(a) noun (b) pronoun
(c) verb (d) adverb
44. Wise people always look for answers in unlikely places.
(a) verb (b) adverb
(c) pronoun (d) adjective

Directions (Questions 45-48) : Identify the appropriate verb-form to fill in the blanks:

45. I _____ for this company for thirty years, and I intend to stay here till I retire.
(a) worked (b) was working
(c) have been working (d) will work
46. Some people say that it is better to _____ for today.
(a) be living (b) living
(c) lives (d) live

47. These shoes are too expensive, I cannot afford _____ them.
(a) to buy (b) buying
(c) buy (d) bought
48. They would have won the match if they _____ better.
(a) will play (b) had played
(c) have played (d) played

Directions (Questions 49-53) : Analyse the given sentences and choose the correct options:

49. I like playing basketball, and my brother likes playing tennis.
(a) Simple sentence (b) Compound sentence
(c) Complex sentence (d) Compound-Complex sentence
50. They need our help, though they don't like to admit it.
(a) Simple sentence (b) Compound sentence
(c) Complex sentence (d) Compound-Complex sentence
51. Remember to practice personal cleanliness as simple hand washing and proper food handling can help protect you from infectious diseases.
(a) Simple sentence (b) Compound sentence
(c) Complex sentence (d) Compound-Complex sentence
52. The two girls talked and giggled all night.
(a) Simple sentence (b) Compound sentence
(c) Complex sentence (d) Compound-Complex sentence
53. The manager bought a calculator and he has made fewer mistakes in his monthly checking statement.
(a) Simple sentence (b) Compound sentence
(c) Complex sentence (d) Compound-Complex sentence

Directions (Questions 54-58) : Pick the correct clause of the words underlined in the given sentences:

54. I don't remember who won the award last year.
(a) noun clause (b) adjective clause
(c) adverb clause (d) co-ordinate clause
55. By the time he got home, his wife had already slept.
(a) noun clause (b) adjective clause
(c) adverb clause (d) co-ordinate clause
56. The bankers need to know what they should do in such situations.
(a) noun clause (b) adjective clause
(c) adverb clause (d) co-ordinate clause

57. The books which the professor assigned are not available.
(a) noun clause (b) adjective clause
(c) adverb clause (d) co-ordinate clause
58. I didn't know which job I wanted so I decided to wait.
(a) noun clause (b) adjective clause
(c) adverb clause (d) co-ordinate clause

Directions (Questions 59-64) : Identify the correct notion expressed by each of the following sentences by choosing one of the alternatives given:

59. Barking dogs seldom bite.
(a) imperative (b) affirmative
(c) interrogative (d) negative
60. Let's decide on our plan of action at the formal meeting.
(a) imperative (b) assertive
(c) affirmative (d) exclamatory
61. I don't know what I'll do if I don't pass this test!
(a) assertive (b) negative
(c) exclamatory (d) affirmative
62. You should not hate anybody.
(a) imperative (b) affirmative
(c) interrogative (d) negative
63. She writes with her left hand.
(a) assertive (b) negative
(c) imperative (d) interrogative
64. Did you know that they got a divorce?
(a) affirmative (b) exclamatory
(c) interrogative (d) imperative

Directions (Questions 65-72) : Identify the correct usage of the words in the alternatives given below:

65. The Director gave his ___ to the proposal after her successful presentation.
(a) ascent (b) essence
(c) assent (d) asset
66. The entire family has been invited to the star-studded ___ of their neighbour's film.
(a) premiere (b) primer
(c) premier (d) paramour
67. Exercise indirectly ___ all parts of the body.
(a) actives (b) effect
(c) effectual (d) affects

68. Babies usually start with rice ____ as their first solid food.
(a) series (b) cereal
(c) service (d) serial
69. Raw vegetables are usually considered healthier ____ cooked ones.
(a) like (b) than
(c) as (d) then
70. She was told to ____ for a photograph to be put up on facebook.
(a) pose (b) post
(c) pass (d) posted
71. The show was a success and was received ____ well.
(a) excessively (b) too
(c) exception (d) exceedingly
72. The party finally split because of the frequent ____ quarrelling.
(a) factitious (b) fractious
(c) fractions (d) fictitious

Directions (Questions 73-80) : Identify the word that gives the nearest meaning of the underlined words in the following sentences:

73. He derided his students' attempt to solve the biggest problem in mathematics.
(a) dismount (b) laugh at
(c) exterminate (d) encourage
74. The hospital annex was finally completed after pressure from the community.
(a) foundation (b) underground dwelling
(c) additional structure (d) building
75. Many older people deprecatd the film's attitude to drug and sex.
(a) disapprove (b) understand
(c) belittle (d) decline
76. The carpenter skilfully manipulated the boards on the shelf with just one arm.
(a) fix (b) carry
(c) push (d) control
77. This letter is accepted by the court as an authentic document.
(a) genuine (b) acceptable
(c) wonderful (d) false
78. Eating food with too much cholesterol makes the veins liable to thicken, and may result in heart problems.
(a) responsible (b) subject
(c) likely (d) faulty

79. His popularity is largely based on his personal charisma and stage presence.

- (a) power
- (b) kindness
- (c) talent
- (d) charm

80. There was a palpable tension in the air as the Opposition leader walked into the room.

- (a) imagined
- (b) obvious
- (c) probable
- (d) unlikely

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