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) tranquillising  (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 ____ his students’ attempt to solve the biggest problem in mathematics.
   (a) dismount  (b) laugh at
   (c) exterminate  (d) encourage

74. The hospital ____ was finally completed after pressure from the community.
   (a) foundation  (b) underground dwelling
   (c) additional structure  (d) building

75. Many older people ____ the film’s attitude to drug and sex.
   (a) disapprove  (b) understand
   (c) belittle  (d) decline

76. The carpenter skillfully ____ 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 ____ document.
   (a) genuine  (b) acceptable
   (c) wonderful  (d) false

78. Eating food with too much cholesterol makes the veins ____ 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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