

MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
LIMITED DEPARTMENTAL EXAMINATIONS FOR PROMOTION TO
GRADE-V OF MIZORAM SECRETARIAT SERVICE
JANUARY, 2014

PAPER - I

Time Allowed : 3 hours

Full Marks : 100

Attempt all questions.

The figures in the margin indicate full marks for the questions.

1. Write an essay in about 1000 words on any one of the following: (25)
 - (a) Global War on Terror
 - (b) Menace of human trafficking
 - (c) Corruption : causes and remedies
 - (d) The national economy and its tribulation

2. Write a précis of the following passage: (15)

The first thing that strikes one about the discomfort in which our ancestors lived is that it was mainly voluntary. Some of the apparatus for modern comfort is of purely modern invention. People could not have put rubber tyres on their carriages before the discovery of the rubber plant. But for the most part there is nothing new about the material basis of our comfort. Man could have made sofas and spring mattresses, could have installed bath rooms and central heating and sanitary plumbing any time during the last three or four thousand years. And as a matter of fact at certain periods they had indulged themselves in these comforts. Two thousand years before Christ the inhabitants of Cnossus were familiar with sanitary plumbing. The Romans had invented an elaborate system of hot-air heating and the bathing facilities in a smart Roman Villa were luxurious and completely beyond the dreams of modern man. A single room of the baths of the Emperor Diocletian has been transformed into a large Church.

If the men of the earlier ages lived in dirt and discomfort, it was not for any lack of ability to change their mode of life; it was because they chose to live in this way, because filth and discomfort fitted with their principles and prejudices, political, moral and religious. What have comfort and cleanliness to do with politics, morals and religion? Take the comfort of arm-chairs and central heating. These became possible only with the breakdown of the power of kings and great lords and the decay of social classes and the old family system. Sofas and modern arm-chairs exist for relaxation, indeed you can loll or sit at ease in them. Now this is not dignified or respectful. When we wish to appear impressive we do not lie in a chair, we sit up and try to look majestic. Similarly, when we wish to be polite to a lady or show respect to the eminent, we cease to loll, we stand or sit up straight. Now in the past human society was a hierarchy of ranks in which every man was always engaged in being impressive towards his inferiors or respectful to those above him. Relaxing in arm-chairs in such societies was utterly impossible.

(Contd. 2)

Another feature of modern comfort- the proper heating of the house was made possible for the great one of the earth by the political structure of ancient societies. The great had to live in great palaces, with large and lofty halls in which they dined in state or received their guests. Splendid, but cold, their mansions had perforce to be. The third great component of modern comfort, the bath, is due partly to the weakening of the tradition of asceticism which did not set much store by cleanliness. The discovery of infection through germs has put a further premium of cleanliness. We wash now with fervour to protect ourselves from the dust-loving germs.

And now comfort has become not only a physical habit but a fashion. But one can never have something for nothing and the achievement of comfort has been accompanied by a loss of other, equally, perhaps more, valuable things. A man of means who builds a house today is in general concern primarily with the comfort of future residence. His counterpart in an earlier age would have been primarily concerned with the impressiveness and magnificence of his dwelling; with beauty, in a word, rather than comfort. Is our present passion for comfort to be regarded as means to an end, as intended to create conditions which are favourable to the life of the mind?

3. As Finance Secretary prepare a draft to be sent to all departments, district officers and commissioners instructing them to adopt measures of financial economy. (20)

4. A. Correct the errors in the following sentences: (10)

- (a) You are not entitled for promotion.
- (b) What is your criteria for admission?
- (c) She returned back yesterday.
- (d) Never enter into my house again.
- (e) We have ordered for many books.
- (f) He is used to tell lies.
- (g) This book is mine, not your's.
- (h) You are the head here, isn't it?
- (i) The choice lies between honour or dishonour.
- (j) The work was hard and exhaustive.

B. Rewrite as directed: (5)

- (a) We are sure of his honesty. (change to complex sentence)
- (b) Are you not making a noise? (change to passive voice)
- (c) She is too clever not to see through your trick (remove 'too,' use 'so..that')
- (d) I am not so great as he. (change to affirmative)
- (e) We must eat, or we cannot live. (change to simple sentence)

C. Use the following idioms in sentences to bring out their meanings: (5)

- (a) to small purpose
- (b) a mare's nest
- (c) a man of parts
- (d) off and on
- (e) foot the bill

(Contd. 3)

5. A. Fill in the blanks using appropriate forms of the given word : (10)

put jealous divide accident globe
increase philosophizing offensive imagination innocent

- (a) What does Indian _____ teach?
- (b) Try to rise above petty personal _____
- (c) Who can dare to _____ the leader?
- (d) It is difficult to _____ such dullards.
- (e) He fell into the gorge _____
- (f) United we stand, _____ we fall.
- (g) We love children for their _____
- (h) The programme of rehabilitations is _____
- (i) _____ is affecting Indian economy.
- (j) When are you _____ out to sea again?

B. Fill in the blanks using appropriate prepositions : (5)

- (a) You must not depend _____ promise.
- (b) Nothing will come _____ nothing.
- (c) This work is _____ his capacity.
- (d) He married _____ money.
- (e) These are good rules to live _____

C. Fill in the blanks using appropriate auxiliaries : (5)

- (a) He _____ bought a new T.V. set.
- (b) _____ you going to settle here?
- (c) This book _____ written in 1941.
- (d) I _____ not expect to meet you here.
- (e) When _____ we see you again?

* * * * *