

MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

LIMITED DEPARTMENTAL EXAMINATIONS OF UPPER DIVISION CLERK FOR PROMOTION TO ASSISTANT GRADE UNDER DP & AR (SSW) DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM. AUGUST, 2019

PAPER - IV

Time Allowed : 3 hours

FM : 100 PM : 35

Marks for each question is indicated against it.

Attempt all questions.

1. Write an Essay (in about 400 words) on **any one (1)** of the following topics : **(20)**
 - Mental Health for Productive Service
 - Promoting Tourism to Enhance State Economy
 - Social Media and Cyber Crime
 - The Right to Vote

2. Read the following **passage** carefully and answer the questions given below :

Unquestionably, a literary life is for most part an unhappy life; because, if you have genius, you must suffer the penalty of genius; and, if you have only talent, there are so many cares and worries incidental to the circumstances of men of letters, as to make life exceedingly miserable. Besides the pangs of composition, and the continuous disappointment which a true artist feels at his inability to reveal himself, there is the ever-recurring difficulty of gaining the public ear. Young writers are buoyed up by the hope and the belief that they have only to throw that poem at the world's feet to get back in return the laurel-crown; that they have only to push that novel into print to be acknowledged at once as a new light in literature. You can never convince a young author that the editors of magazines and the publishers of books are a practical body of men, who are by no means frantically anxious about placing the best literature before the public. Nay, that for the most part they are mere brokers, who conduct their business on the hardest lines of a Profit and Loss account. But supposing your book fairly launches, its perils are only beginning. You have to run the gauntlet of the critics. To a young author, again, this seems to be as terrible an ordeal as passing down the files of Sioux or Comanche Indians, each one of whom is thirsting for your scalp. When you are a little older, you will find that criticism is not much more serious than the bye-play of clowns in a circus, when they beat around the ring the victim with bladders slung at the end of long poles. A time comes in the life of every author when he regards critics as comical rather than formidable, and goes his way unheeding. But there are sensitive souls that yield under the chastisement and, perhaps, after suffering much silent torture, abandon the profession of the pen for ever. Keats, perhaps, is the saddest example of a fine spirit hounded to death by savage criticism; because, whatever his biographers may aver, that furious attack of Gifford and Terry undoubtedly expedited his death. But no doubt there are hundreds who suffer keenly from hostile and unscrupulous criticism, and who have to bear that suffering in silence, because it is a cardinal principle in literature that the most unwise thing in the world for an author is to take public notice of criticism in the way of defending himself. Silence is the only safeguard, as it is the only dignified protest against insult and offence.

QUESTIONS:

- (a) Why is literary life mostly an unhappy one? (2)
- (b) Are editors and publishers sympathetic to young authors? (2)
- (c) What are some of the ordeals awaiting the young authors from the critics? (2)
- (d) What attitude should an author adopt in the face of bitter critics? (2)
- (e) Write in simple English: (2×1=2)
 - (i) buoyed up by the hope
 - (ii) thirsting for your scalp.

3. Write a **précis** of the following passage in about **one-third** of its length and give a suitable title. (15)

The effect produced on the mind by travelling depends entirely on the mind of the traveller and on the way in which he conducts himself. The chief idea of one very common type of traveller is to see as many objects of interest as he possibly can. If he can only after his return home say that he has seen such and such a temple, castle, picture gallery, or museum, he is perfectly satisfied. Therefore, when he arrives at a famous city, he rushes through it, so that he may get over as quickly as possible the task of seeing its principal sights, enter them by name in his note-book as visited or, in his own phraseology 'done', and then hurry on to another city which he treats in the same unceremonious way.

Another kind of traveller in all he sees finds entertainment for his foolish spirit of ridicule. The more hallowed any object is from historical and religious associations or artistic beauty, the more he delights to degrade it by applying to it familiar terms of vulgar slang that he mistakes for wit. Such a one brings disgrace upon his nation by the rude insolence with which he laughs at foreigners and their ways, and everything else that attracts the notice of his feeble understanding. At the end of his wanderings he returns to his home as a living example, showing

How much the fool that hath been taught to roam
Excels the fools that hath been kept at home.

Far different is the effect of travels upon who leave their native country with minds prepared by culture to feel intelligent admiration for all the beauties of nature and art to be found in foreign lands. Their object is not to see much, but to see well. When they visit Paris or Athens or Rome, instead of hurrying from temple to museum, and from museum to picture gallery, they allow the spirit of the place to sink into their minds, and only visit such monuments as the time they have at their disposal allows them to contemplate without irreverent haste. They find it more profitable and delightful to settle down for a week or so at the centres of great historical and artistic interest or of remarkable natural beauty, than to pay short visits to all the principal cities that they pass by. In this way they gain by their travels refreshment and rest for their minds, satisfaction to their intellectual curiosity or artistic tastes, and increased knowledge of the world and its inhabitants. Such people, who travelled with their eyes open, return to their native land with a greater knowledge of its glories and defects than the stay-at-home can ever have.

4. You are posted as Lower Division Clerk in the office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Serchhip. Write an application for transfer to Aizawl on Medical Ground. Sign yourself as Rinliana. (15)

5. Choose **any five (5)** from the given idioms and phrases to make meaningful sentences.

(5×3=15)

- (a) To be up and doing
- (b) At daggers drawn
- (c) Cut and dry
- (d) On the wrong side of
- (e) No legs to stand upon
- (f) Without rhyme or reason
- (g) A white elephant

6. Complete the sentences with the correct preposition:

(5×1=5)

- (a) Don't loiter _____ the street.
- (b) The driver jumped _____ the car.
- (c) I have not slept _____ yesterday.
- (d) It cannot be done _____ offence.
- (e) We suffered _____ your neglect.
- (f) The public are cautioned _____ pickpockets.

7. Fill in the blanks with suitable verbs that agree with the subject:

(5×1=5)

- (a) Either he or I _____ mistaken.
- (b) Fifteen minutes _____ allowed to each speaker.
- (c) My friend and benefactor _____ come.
- (d) Knowledge and wisdom _____ of times no connection.
- (e) My means _____ much reduced owing to that heavy loss.

8. Rewrite the following sentences without changing their meaning.

(5×1=5)

- (a) The news is too good to be true.
- (b) He chose the wrong career.
- (c) This cloth is made of wool.
- (d) No other singer is as good as you.
- (e) I was doubtful whether it was you.

9. Change the following sentences as directed in the brackets.

(5×1=5)

- (a) Challenge incites conflict and conflict breeds catastrophe. (*Change to Present Perfect Tense*)
- (b) I can resist everything except temptation. (*Change to Passive Voice*)
- (c) Let him be blessed. (*Change to Active Voice*)
- (d) He said, "Daughter, take my golden jug, and fetch me some water from the well." (*Change to Indirect Speech*)
- (e) He exclaimed sadly that he was ruined. (*Change to Direct Speech*)

10. Convert the following complex sentences into simple sentences.

(5×1=5)

- (a) How long I shall stay is doubtful.
- (b) We came upon a hut where a peasant lived.
- (c) He was so tired that he could not stand.
- (d) The son who was his chief pride in his old age is dead.
- (e) As the war was ended, the soldiers returned.