

MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

GENERAL COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER AND PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHER UNDER SCHOOL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT. JULY, 2015.

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 of the given topics in not more than 300 words:
 - (a) Population Problem in India.
 - (b) The Development of Tourism in Mizoram.
 - (c) The Dignity of Labour.

SECTION - B

(80 Marks)

All questions carry equal mark of 1 each. Attempt all questions.

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

Directions (Questions 1 – 8) : Indicate the correct meaning of the given idioms and phrases:

1. Fair weather friends
 - (a) selfless
 - (b) good friend
 - (c) selfish
 - (d) familiar
2. In sad earnest
 - (a) casually
 - (b) formally
 - (c) easily
 - (d) seriously
3. At a loose end
 - (a) without a definite occupation
 - (b) having no family
 - (c) losing something
 - (d) to share
4. Hard nut to crack
 - (a) hard to read
 - (b) difficult to open
 - (c) difficult problem
 - (d) trouble maker
5. To come into notice
 - (a) to make notice
 - (b) to bring out
 - (c) to mould something
 - (d) to attract attention

6. To move heaven and earth
(a) to take away (b) to make a great effort
(c) to move something very big (d) to gain some more
7. To bring to light
(a) to sustain (b) to attempt
(c) to explain (d) to expose
8. Back and belly
(a) shelter and food (b) clothing and food
(c) body and soul (d) back and forth

Directions (Questions 9 – 16) : Fill in the blanks with the idioms/phrases out of the given options:

9. _____ is the mother of good luck.
(a) Honesty (b) Diligence
(c) Patience (d) Endurance
10. Every failure is a _____ to success.
(a) stepping-stone (b) stumbling-block
(c) flow of spirits (d) fast friend
11. Fools rush in where _____ fear to tread.
(a) people (b) idiots
(c) angels (d) devils
12. To err is human, to _____ divine.
(a) forget (b) punish
(c) blame (d) forgive
13. He used to see me _____.
(a) time and again (b) off and on
(c) now and then (d) by and large
14. John's dealings have always been _____.
(a) far and wide (b) fair and square
(c) heart and soul (d) by and large
15. He wandered _____ before I met him.
(a) more or less (b) hither and thither
(c) time and again (d) out and out
16. Let us _____ with our work.
(a) go up (b) go about
(c) go beyond (d) go ahead

Directions for the following 3 (three) passages : Read the following passages carefully and choose the best answer to each of the questions out of the four alternatives:

Passage – 1 : Questions Nos. 17 – 22

One cannot be truly human and civilised unless one looks upon not only all fellow-men but all creation with the eyes of a friend. Throughout India, edicts carved on rocks and iron pillars are reminders that 22 centuries ago Emperor Ashoka defined a king's duty as not merely to protect citizens and punish wrong-doers but also to preserve animal life and forest trees. Ashoka was the first and perhaps the only monarch until very recently, to forbid the killing of a large number of species of animals for sport or food. He went further, regretting the carnage of his military conquests and enjoining upon his successors to find "their only pleasure in the peace that comes through righteousness."

Along with the rest of mankind, we in India – in spite of Ashoka – have been guilty of wanton disregard for the sources of our sustenance. We share your concern at the rapid deterioration of flora and fauna. Some of our own wild life has been wiped out, miles of forests with beautiful old trees, mute witnesses of history, have been destroyed. Even though our industrial development is in its infancy, and at its most difficult stage, we are taking various steps to deal with incipient environmental imbalances; the more so because of our concern for the human being – a species which is also imperiled. In poverty he is threatened by malnutrition and disease, in weakness by war, in richness by the pollution brought about by his own prosperity.

(from Indira Gandhi's Speech at the UN Conference on 'Human Environment', 1972)

17. The passage is about:
- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| (a) Environment and Pollution | (b) Human Environment |
| (c) Industrial Development | (d) Wild Life |
18. Mrs. Gandhi describe a person who looks upon his fellow-men and the World with friendly eyes as:
- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| (a) Smart and clever person | (b) Friendly and Smart |
| (c) Truly human and civilised | (d) Truly human beings |
19. "A king's duty is not merely to protect citizens and punish wrong-doers but also to preserve animal life and forest trees." This is a definition of a king's duty by:
- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| (a) Indira Gandhi | (b) Ashoka |
| (c) William Cooper | (d) Mahatma Gandhi |
20. What dangers does man have to face when he is poor?
- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| (a) deterioration of flora and fauna | (b) famine and plague |
| (c) lack of good relationship | (d) malnutrition and disease |
21. When man is politically weak he faces the danger of:
- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| (a) war | (b) poverty |
| (c) quarelling | (d) having a row |
22. In richness, man faces the danger of:
- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| (a) becoming fat | (b) noise pollution |
| (c) an impure environment | (d) water pollution |

Passage – 2 : Questions Nos. 23 – 27

Sometimes an animal copes with a changed situation, not by adapting to it, but by moving away from it to another location. There, it may still have to adapt, but the type of adaptation may be easier. There are primitive races of man that have attempted to avoid the pressures or changes that civilisation brings. They have had to adjust to living in remote or harsh conditions. Examples are the pygmies of the Congo who have escaped into the thickest jungles which are full of dangers. They have learned to obtain a living there and to cope with wild animals. African bushmen manage to live off the arid Kalahari Desert where there is hardly any other life. Life is tough for the bushmen but they are left in peace. These social adaptations could well lead to biological adaptations over a number of generations, but this is a very slow progress and it is unlikely that any single person would be aware of it taking place.

23. Instead of adapting, an animal:
- (a) goes around for finding a prey
 - (b) is in need of food and water
 - (c) must find ways to feed itself
 - (d) moves into different habitat from time to time
24. Some earliest human beings:
- (a) have nothing to do with adaptation
 - (b) had never tried to beware the changes of civilisation
 - (c) had to live in distant and unpleasant environment
 - (d) become civilised easily
25. It is clear in the passage that:
- (a) life is hard for the bushmen so they gave up
 - (b) the pygmies of the Congo were subject to the dangers of wild animals
 - (c) there is no obligation for human beings to find a new environment
 - (d) no man has more difficulties than African bushmen
26. Choose the most appropriate title for the passage
- (a) Pygmies of Congo
 - (b) Primitive Environment
 - (c) Adapting to Change
 - (d) African Bushmen
27. The word 'arid' means:
- (a) very dry
 - (b) very pleasant
 - (c) very wet
 - (d) very dull

Passage – 3 : Question Nos. 28 – 32

Much of the blood on the street flows essentially from uncivil behaviour of drivers who refuse to respect the legal and moral rights of others. So the massacre on the road may be regarded as a social problem. Safety standards for vehicle have been raised both at the point of manufacture and through periodic road-worthiness inspections. In addition, speed limits have been lowered. Due to these measures, the accident rate has decreased. But the accident experts still worry because there has been little or no improvements in the way drivers behave.

28. Traffic accidents may be regarded as a Social problem since:
- (a) the motor vehicle is a very dangerous invention
 - (b) the accidents have more to do with hazardous conditions than hazardous drivers
 - (c) most of the accidents are caused by drivers who don't pay attention to the traffic rules
 - (d) traffic accidents can cause serious economic damage
29. The number of accidents has fallen because:
- (a) significant advances have been made towards safer driving
 - (b) drivers are warned to take extra care on the roads
 - (c) drivers have finally learned how to behave
 - (d) there has been improvement in the way drivers behave
30. It is pointed out in the passage that those who violate traffic regulations:
- (a) always blame the road conditions
 - (b) don't have prior traffic violations on their records
 - (c) are the biggest threat to those with whom they share the road
 - (d) don't know most of the traffic rules and regulations
31. The word 'massacre' means:
- (a) slaughter of human beings
 - (b) killing of animals
 - (c) violation of traffic rules
 - (d) vehicle safety
32. The most appropriate title for this passage is:
- (a) Rules of the road
 - (b) Traffic Accidents
 - (c) Massacre on the road
 - (d) Uncivil behaviour of drivers

Directions (Questions 33 – 40) : Choose the correct form of nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs from the alternatives given:

33. Everybody at the party was _____ dressed.
- (a) colourfully
 - (b) beautifully
 - (c) colourful
 - (d) happily
34. The mother-pig bore a _____ of ten piglets.
- (a) number
 - (b) young ones
 - (c) litter
 - (d) cub

35. What a stupid thing to do! Can you imagine anybody _____ so stupid.
(a) acting (b) talking
(c) feeling (d) be
36. She speaks _____ English.
(a) nice (b) perfect
(c) well (d) warm
37. Our holiday was too short. The time passed very _____.
(a) fast (b) easily
(c) quickly (d) suddenly
38. Why do you always look so _____?
(a) seriously (b) ghastly
(c) fair (d) serious
39. Bread is made from _____.
(a) wheat (b) flour
(c) meat (d) millet
40. My memory is getting worse. I keep _____ things.
(a) forgetting (b) forget
(c) referring (d) detaining

Directions (Questions 41 – 48) : Fill in the blanks with correct prepositions:

41. I was surprised _____ the way he behaved. It was completely out of character.
(a) at (b) with
(c) by (d) for
42. Are you still upset _____ what I said to you yesterday?
(a) for (b) about
(c) with (d) of
43. We enjoyed our holiday, but we were a bit disappointed _____ the hotel.
(a) with (b) against
(c) into (d) in
44. Money isn't the solution _____ every problem.
(a) for (b) into
(c) on (d) to
45. There are some differences _____ British and American English.
(a) among (b) against
(c) between (d) in

46. Are you hungry? Would you care _____ something to eat?
(a) about (b) for
(c) of (d) at
47. They wore warm clothes to protect themselves _____ the cold.
(a) over (b) beyond
(c) for (d) against
48. There was an awful noise as the car crashed _____ a tree.
(a) on (b) into
(c) over (d) before

Directions (Questions 49 – 56) : Analyse the given sentences and choose the correct option:

49. There can be no smoke without fire.
(a) Affirmative (b) Negative
(c) Interrogative (d) Assertive
50. Can a leopard change his spots?
(a) Interrogative (b) Assertive
(c) Affirmative (d) Negative
51. Was any man ever immortal!
(a) Assertive (b) Affirmative
(c) Exclamatory (d) Negative
52. He was more worthy of praise than anyone else.
(a) Interrogative (b) Assertive
(c) Negative (d) Affirmative
53. Nowhere in the world will you find a mountain peak higher than Everest.
(a) Negative (b) Affirmative
(c) Interrogative (d) Assertive
54. He was laughed at by them.
(a) Passive Voice (b) Active Voice
(c) Statement (d) Imperative
55. As soon as he came he made objections.
(a) Statement (b) Assertive
(c) Affirmative (d) Imperative
56. William prayed to the Judge that he might be pardoned.
(a) Statement (b) Passive Voice
(c) Active Voice (d) Imperative

Directions (Questions 57 – 65) : Analyse the given sentences and choose the correct option:

57. The Pacific is the deepest Ocean.
(a) Comparative Degree (b) Superlative Degree
(c) Positive Degree
58. This pot is not so good as that.
(a) Superlative Degree (b) Comparative Degree
(c) Positive Degree
59. Shakespeare is greater than any other English poet.
(a) Positive Degree (b) Comparative Degree
(c) Superlative Degree
60. A child who has lost its parents is to be pitied.
(a) Compound Sentence (b) Complex Sentence
(c) Simple Sentence
61. Fortunately he has a strong sense of humour.
(a) Simple Sentence (b) Compound Sentence
(c) Complex Sentence
62. I gave him not only money but also good advice.
(a) Complex Sentence (b) Compound Sentence
(c) Simple Sentence
63. Owing to poverty she could not shine in life.
(a) Simple Sentence (b) Complex Sentence
(c) Compound Sentence
64. The news is so good that it cannot be true.
(a) Simple Sentence (b) Compound Sentence
(c) Complex Sentence
65. Let him enjoy his hard-earned money.
(a) Simple Sentence (b) Compound Sentence
(c) Complex Sentence

Directions (Questions 66 – 70) : Use the content to help you choose the right answer:

66. Then the mother rose and came into the kitchen. She looked at the two women, at her little son, and at the hearth, as if she were looking for something she had lost.
Q. In the above passage the word hearth means:
(a) floor (b) brick
(c) fireplace (d) stone

67. The next point concerns the general deportment and conduct of the class. First the young ladies. They must show themselves both worthy and appreciative of the courtesies we men will show them.
Q. The word 'deportment' means:
- (a) behaviour (b) understanding
(c) motive (d) idea
68. When they heard the good news about the court's decision, the angry crowd cheered and then began to disperse. "It looks like everyone is going home," one reporter stated.
Q. Which would be the opposite of 'disperse'?
- (a) smile (b) fly like a bird
(c) come together (d) sing
69. There are several words used to describe the act of speaking. For example, a dialogue is a talk between two people. When one person speaks for a long time we call his speech:
- (a) conversation (b) briefing
(c) chit-chat (d) monologue
70. A wonderful 63 year old woman is working day and night to knit mufflers to send as gifts for the orphanage. What a selfless person she is!
Q. A selfless woman:
- (a) is selfish (b) cares more about others than herself
(c) has no name (d) likes to wear mufflers

Directions (Questions 71 – 75) : Choose the right alternative from the given options to fill in the gaps.

71. I have always tried not to _____ in things that are not my business.
- (a) intervene (b) interfere
(c) intercede (d) interpose
72. The traffic was _____ for a few minutes, then it began.
- (a) stationary (b) standing
(c) slow (d) stationery
73. The _____ changed to green and the train moved away from the station.
- (a) sign (b) arrow
(c) colour (d) signal
74. He was _____ complaining about something or the other.
- (a) continuously (b) somewhat
(c) continually (d) happy
75. Who's Mary fluttering her _____ at now?
- (a) eyebrows (b) eyelashes
(c) tongue (d) lips

Directions (Questions 76 – 80) : Fill in the blank with the appropriate form of the words given below:

76. Mr. Parks' lessons are really _____. I hate his lessons.
(a) bore (b) boring
(c) interesting (d) thrilling
77. Women wore these skirts _____.
(a) tradition (b) customarily
(c) costume (d) traditionally
78. I want to see the National Theater's _____ of Arthur Miller's 'The last Yankee'.
(a) presentation (b) present
(c) show (d) presenting
79. Do you always behave _____ when your naughty nieces come to visit?
(a) tolerance (b) tolerant
(c) tolerantly (d) tolerate
80. There is a friendly _____ between the two teams.
(a) rival (b) rivalry
(c) rivals (d) grudge

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