

MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

GENERAL COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF DEPUTY STORE OFFICER UNDER HOME DEPARTMENT. AUGUST, 2019

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 following topics in not more than 300 words. **(20)**
- Secularism in India.
 - Importance of Empathy.
 - Impact of Religion in Mizoram.

SECTION - B

(80 Marks)

All questions carry equal marks of 1 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 as sentences or in italics in the sentences :

1. To bury the hatchet.
(a) to put aside differences
(b) to put away a weapon
(c) to bury a weapon
(d) to hide something
2. To kick the bucket.
(a) to give up on something
(b) to pass away
(c) to give something away
(d) to be unhappy
3. By hook or by crook.
(a) by stealing
(b) in complete secrecy
(c) by any means
(d) by force
4. A dime a dozen.
(a) very common
(b) very expensive
(c) very many
(d) very cheap
5. Babe in the woods.
(a) unexperienced
(b) beautiful
(c) needing to be rescued
(d) pretty

6. Jack's new car *costs an arm and a leg*.
(a) very expensive (b) very cheap
(c) illegally bought (d) bought by trade
7. They *cut corners* while building their house and it eventually collapsed.
(a) done badly (b) done quickly
(c) done diligently (d) none of these
8. Hit the sack.
(a) to hit something (b) to go to sleep
(c) to commit adultery (d) to hit a sack
9. Michael being diligent only happens *once in a blue moon*.
(a) very common (b) very rarely
(c) never happens (d) none of these
10. Take it with a grain of salt.
(a) not to be taken seriously (b) to be considered
(c) to be taken seriously (d) to be forgotten
11. Thomas had the entire game *under his thumb*.
(a) in his imagination (b) in a losing position
(c) under his control (d) under his possession
12. few and far between
(a) In-between (b) Very rare
(c) Very near (d) Very far
13. Call a spade a spade.
(a) to be hypocritical (b) to lie
(c) to snitch (d) to be frank
14. Their marriage is basically *a cat and dog life*.
(a) life full of bliss (b) life full of sorrow
(c) life full of quarrels (d) life without quarrels
15. The rumor *spread like wildfire*.
(a) spread slowly (b) spread quickly
(c) spread dangerously (d) spread like fire
16. Die in harness.
(a) die while in service (b) die while in safety
(c) die in a hospital bed (d) die peacefully

Directions (Questions 17-22) : Read the following passages carefully and choose the appropriate answer to each of the questions out of the four alternatives :

Vincent van Gogh was a Dutch painter, famous for his passionate paintings and a life of extreme talent mixed with tragedy. Vincent van Gogh was born in 1853 and died in 1890, after befriending artists such as Paul Gauguin, Henri Toulouse-Lautrec, and Georges Seurat. During his lifetime, Impressionism became widely accepted and artists such as Claude Monet became popular with their soft, pastel palettes and play with light. In contrast, Vincent van Gogh's intense and often dark paintings were not widely favored at the time.

Van Gogh lived modestly and sold only a few paintings while he was alive. With financial and moral assistance from his beloved brother Theo, Vincent van Gogh was able to survive and pursue his desire to paint. He lived in Paris, then moved to Arles in Provence, France, and was later institutionalized in Saint-Remy, but continued to paint and draw.

He was a solitary man, absorbed in, and some say obsessed by, his art. He was also a very compassionate man, giving away many of his possessions to those less fortunate. Originally, Vincent van Gogh had decided to become a minister, like his father. However, he later discovered his passion for painting and in only ten years created over 800 paintings and 800 drawings.

Vincent van Gogh found subjects in his surroundings, thus painting portraits, landscapes, and images of places and people he encountered. He would often associate with humble, impoverished people, while he himself often lived in poverty. One of his most famous paintings is "The Potato Eaters," which depicts peasants and expresses how their lives are intertwined with manual labor and the earth. Many subjects of Vincent van Gogh's paintings also included beauty found in nature as he would take long walks in wheat fields, along ponds, through fields of flowers, and among giant cypress trees.

17. Van Gogh's life was a mix of :
 - (a) joy and happiness
 - (b) extreme talent and tragedy
 - (c) skill and depression
 - (d) none of these
18. Van Gogh was able to pursue his passion because of :
 - (a) his brother
 - (b) his friends
 - (c) his father
 - (d) his determination
19. What was he most passionate in?
 - (a) being a minister
 - (b) making money
 - (c) painting
 - (d) none of these
20. What type of person was Van Gogh?
 - (a) arrogant
 - (b) compassionate
 - (c) stubborn
 - (d) none of these
21. What type of people did he associate with?
 - (a) rich and wealthy
 - (b) humble and impoverished
 - (c) both (a) & (b)
 - (d) none of these
22. Find the synonymous word for 'twirl' in the passage.
 - (a) contrast
 - (b) compassionate
 - (c) passion
 - (d) intertwine

Directions (Questions 23-28) : Read the following passages carefully and choose the appropriate answer to each of the questions out of the four alternatives :

In the 16th century, an age of great marine and terrestrial exploration, Ferdinand Magellan led the first expedition to sail around the world. As a young Portuguese noble, he served the king of Portugal, but he became involved in the quagmire of political intrigue at court and lost the king's favor. After he was dismissed from service by the king of Portugal, he offered to serve the future Emperor Charles V of Spain.

A papal decree of 1493 had assigned all land in the New World west of 50 degrees W longitude to Spain and all the land east of that line to Portugal. Magellan offered to prove that the East Indies fell under Spanish authority. On September 20, 1519, Magellan set sail from

32. They themselves broke the vase.
(a) emphatic pronoun (b) indefinite pronoun
(c) relative pronoun (d) reflexive pronoun
33. This is the place where I got stabbed.
(a) adverb of time (b) adverb of duration
(c) adverb of manner (d) relative adverb
34. She brought a shirt and a book.
(a) adverb (b) quantitative determiner
(c) conjunction (d) none of these

Directions (Questions 35-40) : Fill in the blanks with suitable prepositions from the alternatives given under each sentence :

35. There was conflict _____ the men.
(a) with (b) on
(c) among (d) by
36. He jumped _____ the bridge.
(a) in (b) over
(c) among (d) with
37. The table was placed _____ the chair.
(a) among (b) in
(c) opposite (d) opposite to
38. My grandfather died _____ cancer.
(a) after (b) before
(c) in (d) of
39. Don't lean _____ the wall.
(a) against (b) in
(c) with (d) under
40. An elk stood _____ the trees.
(a) between (b) among
(c) in (d) into

Directions (Questions 41-48) : Identify the appropriate verb-form to fill in the blanks :

41. You _____ early just to be lazy the whole day?
(a) woke up (b) woke
(c) wake (d) awoke
42. I _____ done any work today.
(a) have not (b) has not
(c) have (d) has
43. The _____ of electricity paved way for many great inventions.
(a) discoveries (b) discovery
(c) discovered (d) discovers

44. I was _____ down the street before I was mugged.
(a) jog (b) jogs
(c) jogged (d) jogging
45. I swear on my life that I _____ a ghost.
(a) see (b) seen
(c) saw (d) seeing
46. I _____ a croissant before I came over.
(a) eat (b) ate
(c) eaten (d) eats
47. I _____ in the Ritz for a week or so.
(a) was be staying (b) will be staying
(c) was stay (d) none of these
48. I always _____ at six in the morning.
(a) gets up (b) got up
(c) get up (d) getting up

Directions (Questions 49 – 53) : Analyze the given sentences and choose the correct option :

49. We met rather many people who spoke Spanish.
(a) Compound sentence (b) Complex sentence
(c) Simple sentence
50. We drove to Austria in a few days.
(a) Compound sentence (b) Complex sentence
(c) Simple sentence
51. I don't care how cheap it is.
(a) Compound sentence (b) Complex sentence
(c) Simple sentence
52. You are not tall enough to be a policeman.
(a) Compound sentence (b) Complex sentence
(c) Simple sentence
53. I guess she just doesn't love you.
(a) Compound sentence (b) Complex sentence
(c) Simple sentence

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

54. Ronald is my father-in-law who died a while back.
(a) Noun Clause (b) Adjective Clause
(c) Adverb Clause (d) Co-Ordinate Clause
55. A nurse can find a job wherever she goes.
(a) Noun Clause (b) Adjective Clause
(c) Adverb Clause (d) Co-Ordinate Clause

56. Now I understand why you didn't want to leave.
- (a) Noun Clause (b) Adjective Clause
(c) Adverb Clause (d) Co-Ordinate Clause
57. This is the town where Lakeview Resort is located.
- (a) Noun Clause (b) Adjective Clause
(c) Adverb Clause (d) Co-Ordinate Clause
58. Whoever thought of this is an idiot.
- (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. The zookeeper shot the lion with a tranquilizer.
- (a) Exclamatory (b) Assertive
(c) Affirmative (d) Imperative
60. There is no doubt that Duke is a good person.
- (a) Affirmative (b) Assertive
(c) Negative (d) Exclamatory
61. She danced with me.
- (a) Affirmative (b) Assertive
(c) Negative (d) Exclamatory
62. Goodness gracious, what a large Deer!
- (a) Exclamatory (b) Assertive
(c) Affirmative (d) Imperative
63. She threw the ball into the pit.
- (a) Negative (b) Imperative
(c) Affirmative (d) Assertive
64. Stop fooling around and get to work.
- (a) Negative (b) Exclamatory
(c) Imperative (d) Assertive

Directions (Questions 65 – 72) : Identify the correct meaning of each sentence given below :

65. Something out of the ordinary.
- (a) uncanny (b) original
(c) canny (d) suave
66. Having many wives or husbands.
- (a) promiscuous (b) polygamy
(c) fertile (d) concubine
67. A name that is assumed temporarily
- (a) avatar (b) memento
(c) alias (d) incognito

68. Requiring secret or mysterious knowledge.
(a) mythical (b) arcane
(c) apocryphal (d) voodoo
69. A powerful circular current of water.
(a) waterfall (b) clarion
(c) stream (d) maelstrom
70. A person who is rejected from home or society.
(a) delinquent (b) pariah
(c) degenerate (d) bandit
71. In excess quantity.
(a) plethora (b) portent
(c) presage (d) potent
72. Attractively old-fashioned.
(a) etiquette (b) quaint
(c) handsome (d) majestic

Directions (Questions 73 – 80) : Choose the synonym for each of the words written in italic in the following sentences :

73. The paper you presented is *acceptable* but not up to my expectations.
(a) adequate (b) improper
(c) barely (d) wonderful
74. She gazed at me with her *alluring* eyes.
(a) ugly (b) beautiful
(c) lust (d) clean
75. The thing you did is just simply atrocious.
(a) impressive (b) wonderful
(c) awful (d) weird
76. I have an *ample* amount of cash.
(a) minimal (b) smidgen
(c) shred (d) plenty
77. You are a *brilliant* student.
(a) astute (b) arduous
(c) wonderful (d) integral
78. Like ebony and ivory, they live in complete *harmony*.
(a) euphony (b) epiphany
(c) eulogy (d) melody
79. It was a moment of *exhilaration*.
(a) delirium (b) confusion
(c) jubilation (d) dysphoria
80. Just the memory of her made him feel *vexed*.
(a) exasperated (b) wonderful
(c) euphoria (d) utopia