

MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**TECHNICAL COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF
COMPUTER OPERATOR (CONTRACT)
UNDER MIZORAM INFORMATION COMMISSION, MARCH, 2016**

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 (300 words):
- (a) National Food Security Act
 - (b) My vision of Aizawl as 'A Smart City'
 - (c) Project - Clean 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 1-8): Indicate the correct meaning of the idioms and phrases given:

1. To be taken aback
- (a) surprised
 - (b) angered
 - (c) cared
 - (d) paired
2. To give oneself airs
- (a) to be arrogant
 - (b) to make a garland
 - (c) to link together
 - (d) to do freely
3. All and sundry
- (a) everyone
 - (b) destroy
 - (c) watchful
 - (d) final
4. Alpha and Omega
- (a) the beginning and the end
 - (b) befitting a woman
 - (c) a verbal message
 - (d) article for sale

5. Apple-pie order
(a) a sudden shock (b) perfect order
(c) all belongings (d) cause of contention
6. Apple of one's eye
(a) to charge fairly (b) much prized treasure
(c) to achieve two results (d) to pass a crisis
7. To put the cart before the horse
(a) to imagine a fine future (b) to do things the wrong way
(c) to have a private end to serve (d) to have bitter enemies
8. To fall flat
(a) to flatter (b) to fail
(c) to pass (d) to do all in one's power

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

9. In spite of all his brag he had to eat _____.
(a) humble pie (b) the cake
(c) the last pie (d) the last bite
10. I am prepared to meet you _____.
(a) half-way (b) middle way
(c) no way (d) final way
11. This is _____ the rest of his conduct.
(a) in touch with (b) to live with
(c) of a piece with (d) a becoming
12. He is _____ if he fails at this juncture.
(a) not this time (b) to go forward
(c) not worth his salt (d) with all encouragement
13. The cost of living has increased, he finds it difficult _____.
(a) to make both ends meet (b) to maintain his standard
(c) to make matters worse (d) to maintain appearances
14. Fools rush in where _____ fear to tread.
(a) women (b) devils
(c) lunatics (d) angels
15. He is determined to achieve his object _____.
(a) by his laurels (b) by his supporters
(c) by hook or by crook (d) by good relationship
16. He turned _____ to my advice.
(a) now and then (b) a deaf ear
(c) around and again (d) left and right

Directions for the following 3 (three) passages :Read the given passages carefully and answer the questions that follow :-

Passage -1 : Question Nos. 17 -21

Everything that men do or think concerns either the satisfaction of the needs they feel or the need to escape from pain. This must be kept in mind when we seek to understand spiritual or intellectual movements and the way in which they develop, for feeling and longing are the motive forces of all human striving and productivity – however nobly these latter may display themselves to us.

What, then, are the feelings and the needs which have brought mankind to religious thought and to faith in the widest sense? A moment's consideration shows that the most varied emotions stand at the cradle of religious thought and experience.

In primitive people it is, first of all fear that awakens religious ideas – fear of hunger, of wild animals, of illness and of death. Since the understanding of casual connections is usually limited on this level of existence, the human soul forges a being, more or less like itself, on whose will and activities depend the experiences which it fears. One hopes to win the favour of this being, by deeds and sacrifices, which according to the tradition of the race are supposed to appease the being or to make him well disposed to man. I call this the religion of fear.

This religion is considerably established, though not caused, by the formation of priestly caste which claims to mediate between the people and the being they fear and so attains a position of power. Often a leader or despot will combine the function of the priesthood with its own temporal rule for the sake of greater security; or an alliance may exist between the interests of political power and the priestly caste.

17. What motivates man's actions or thinking?
 - (a) To satisfy his needs or to escape pain
 - (b) His desire for progress or to rule
 - (c) His spiritual urge
 - (d) To carry out the dictates of his religious faith
18. What feeling promoted primitive man to create religion?
 - (a) Love
 - (b) Anger
 - (c) Fear
 - (d) Spiritual revelation
19. "Human soul forges a being" means
 - (a) that ghosts and witches are a creation of human mind
 - (b) that the concept of God is a creation of human mind
 - (c) both (a) and (b)
 - (d) neither (a) nor (b)
20. How did religion become firmly established?
 - (a) Through the constant fear of death
 - (b) Through the perpetuation of faith in God
 - (c) Through the establishment of religious practices
 - (d) Through the growth of a priestly class

21. How did the priests come to acquire political power?
- (a) By joining hand with the despotic rulers
 - (b) By protecting the believers against despotic rulers
 - (c) By generating fear of the unknown in the minds of the rulers
 - (d) By giving blessings to political rulers

PASSAGE -2 : Questions Nos .22-27

Once there was a jester in the court of a king. He entertained everyone in the court with his sparkling wit and interesting jokes. He became very popular as the favourite jester of the court. This made the jester arrogant and conceited. He frequently made fun of the courtiers and offended them. But none dared to complain against him to the king as he was the royal favorite they bore the humiliation quietly. One day he went too far. In a misguided moment, he cut an insulting joke at the expense of the king himself. He thought that the king would appreciate it. But he was wrong. The king felt offended and highly insulted. He became wild with rage. He ordered his servants to hang the jester. The jester was immediately put behind bars. He wept and waited for his death in his dark cell. The jester now repented. He entreated the king to forgive him and spare his life. He begged for mercy. All this had no effect on the king. He remained firm. Some admirers of the jester then intervened for the him. They implored the king to show mercy to the condemned jester and spare his life. The king now relented a bit. He said he would not withdraw the sentence of death penalty. He would, however, allow him to die the death of his choice. The jester could choose the way of his death. On hearing this, the witty fellow said, "Your Highness, I am grateful to you for granting me a chance to choose the manner of my death. I want to make it clear to you that I want to die of old age. Kindly grant me my wish". The king was highly pleased with this intelligent reply and granted him his request. All the courtiers praised the presence of mind of the popular jester. They were happy. The jester was pulled out of the jaws of death.

22. What offer did the king make to the jester?
- (a) To leave the kingdom and settle down in another kingdom
 - (b) To abstain from cutting jokes at the expense of the king
 - (c) To allow him to die the death of his choice
 - (d) To tender an unconditional apology to the king
23. Why did the jester cut a joke at the expense of the king?
- (a) He wanted to settle an old score with the king
 - (b) He thought it would be a good opportunity to teach a lesson to the courtiers
 - (c) He was offended and insulted
 - (d) He thought the king would appreciate it
24. Why was the jester very popular?
- (a) He made fun of the courtiers
 - (b) He entertained everyone with his intelligent jokes
 - (c) He was very intelligent and crafty
 - (d) He was kind and sympathetic to all

25. Why did the king become angry with the jester?
- (a) One day the jester refused to entertain the courtiers
 - (b) He jester humiliated the courtiers
 - (c) The king was in a wretched mood
 - (d) The king felt insulted and offended
26. What made the jester arrogant and conceited?
- (a) His power of making interesting jokes
 - (b) His excellent manners and sophistication
 - (c) His sky-rocketing popularity
 - (d) His powerful imagination and forceful vocabulary
27. Why could nobody complain to the king about the jester's arrogance?
- (a) The king was benevolent and powerful
 - (b) The jester was immensely liked by the king
 - (c) The king was hand-in-glove with the jester
 - (d) The jester's intelligence was acknowledged by the courtiers

Passage- 3 : Questions 28 -32

According to the research findings of a team of American scientists published recently, the sea waves contain as much energy as the world is consuming at present. Scientists have found that through the application of two major devices called land-based systems and offshore devices, this source of energy can provide huge amount of electricity without cooling towers and pollution.

Land-based systems include tapered channels and fixed Oscillating Water Column (OWC) devices, whereas, offshore devices include floating OWC devices, buoys, etc. Through these devices the mechanical energy of ocean waves is absorbed and converted into electrical energy. The wave power potential depends on numerous factors such as the device's capability to harness long wavelengths, period of waves and depth of water where they arise.

Compared to conventional power stations which require greater space and are difficult to maintain in critical situations, wave power devices are highly modular, cost effective and easier to upgrade. As the recent findings suggest, sea wave energy has much greater potential to be used for electricity generation than the hitherto known sources of renewable energy. Moreover, most of the renewable energy systems require hundreds of square acres of useful land for their installation. But in case of wave energy devices, 'space crunch' can never be a serious problem.

28. Which of the following statements is correct?
- Harnessing energy from sea waves
- (a) undermines ecological balance.
 - (b) requires huge capital.
 - (c) requires high technical expertise.
 - (d) results in saving of useful land area.

29. Which of the following statements is correct?

Wave power devices

- (a) convert wind energy into mechanical power.
- (b) convert mechanical energy of ocean waves into electrical energy.
- (c) require costly transmission mechanism.
- (d) entail risk to human life.

30. Which of the following statements is correct?

- (a) Fixed as well as floating oscillating water column devices are required to harness ocean wave energy.
- (b) Fixed oscillating water column devices are required for offshore.
- (c) Floating oscillating water column devices are required for land-based system.
- (d) Electricity generated from oceans is independent of the depth of water where waves arise.

31. Which of the following statements is correct?

The capacity of system to generate electricity from ocean waves

- (a) can be increased only at exorbitant cost.
- (b) can be easily upgraded.
- (c) can be increased but it requires a great space.
- (d) is only a few megawatts.

32. Which of the following statements is NOT correct?

- (a) Conventional power stations require cooling towers.
- (b) Power generation from ocean waves also adds to pollution like conventional stations.
- (c) Ocean wave energy can meet all the present energy of the world.
- (d) Period of waves is one of the relevant factors in power generation from ocean waters.

Directions (Questions 33 – 37) Choose the correct past and perfect tenses from the alternatives given:

33. Hello, Robert. I _____ seen you for ages.

- (a) haven't
- (b) hasn't
- (c) hadn't
- (d) wasn't

34. Hello, Tessa. Great to see you. What have you _____ doing lately?

- (a) been
- (b) had
- (c) has
- (d) was

35. _____ just started a new job in computer sales and services.

- (a) I'd
- (b) I'll
- (c) I'm
- (d) I've

36. You _____ working for 'Sam Enterprises' when we last met.

- (a) did
- (b) had
- (c) have
- (d) were

37. That's right. I had _____ working there but I got fed up.

- (a) be
- (b) been
- (c) done
- (d) had

Directions (Questions 38 -42) Put in the correct form of the verbs from the alternatives given:

38. Tom could hear shouts from the flat next door. His neighbours _____ again.
(a) were arguing (b) arguing
(c) argues (d) argued
39. Rupert had _____ his credit card.
(a) forgot (b) forgotten
(c) forget (d) forgets
40. I didn't want to go until I _____ taken a photo.
(a) has (b) have
(c) had (d) was
41. Nancy has _____ the report.
(a) writing (b) writes
(c) wrote (d) written
42. I have been _____ in the queue for forty minutes.
(a) waiting (b) wait
(c) waited (d) waited

Directions (Questions 43 – 48) Decide which word or phrase is correct:

43. _____ I really need is a long holiday.
(a) that (b) what
(c) which (d) who
44. At last I've found the information that I was looking _____.
(a) for (b) for it
(c) for that (d) it
45. Everyone _____ the building was searched by the police.
(a) enter (b) entered
(c) entering (d) enters
46. The plane _____ has just taken off is an hour late.
(a) it (b) what
(c) which (d) who
47. I had just one reply. ABCD was the _____ company to reply to my letter.
(a) last (b) most
(c) only (d) second
48. Martin is someone with _____ I usually agree.
(a) him (b) that
(c) who (d) whom

Directions : (Questions 49 -56) :Analyse the sentences below and choose the correct answer:-

49. I am sure that she will stand first.
(a) Simple sentence (b) Complex sentence (c) Compound sentence
50. She will stand first. I am sure.
(a) Simple sentence (b) Complex sentence (c) Compound sentence
51. That you are rich does not make you great.
(a) Simple sentence (b) Complex sentence (c) Compound sentence
52. He went to France in 1992. He came back in 1995.
(a) Simple sentence (b) Complex sentence (c) Compound sentence
53. He went to France in 1992, and came back in 1995.
(a) Simple sentence (b) Complex sentence (c) Compound sentence
54. He is punctual. He is intelligent.
(a) Simple sentence (b) Complex sentence (c) Compound sentence
55. He is both punctual and intelligent.
(a) Simple sentence (b) Complex sentence (c) Compound sentence
56. He is not only punctual but also intelligent.
(a) Simple sentence (b) Complex sentence (c) Compound sentence

Directions (Questions 57 -61); Avoiding repetition for the words in italics, use some other suitable words from the alternatives given:-

57. Thanga likes History and Mawia likes Math. It is interesting to note that *Thanga* is the son of a Math teacher while *Mawia's* father is a teacher of History
(a) the former, the latter's (b) the former's, the latter
(c) the formers, the latters (d) the former, the latter
58. Sangi, the monitor of class XI and Sanga, *the monitor* of class XII were asked to meet the principal.
(a) the monitors of class XI and XII respectively
(b) the monitor of class XI and XII respectively
(c) the monitor of Class XI and class XII respectfully
(d) the monitors of class XI and class XII respectfully
59. The host welcomed us. The hostess also *welcomed us*.
(a) Both the host and hostess welcomes us.
(b) Together the host and hostess welcome us.
(c) Both the host and hostess welcomed us.
(d) Together the host and hostess welcomed us.
60. A light bat was ineffective but the heavier *bat* was difficult to get.
(a) bat (b) one
(c) other (d) two

61. Laxman scored a century and Dravid *scored a century*.
- (a) Both Laxman and Dravid scored a century
 - (b) Together Laxman and Dravid scores a centuries
 - (c) Both Laxman and Dravid scored centuries.
 - (d) Together Laxman and Dravid scored century

Directions (Questions 62 – 65); Correctly Link the two sentences from the options given:-

62. The dinner will take some time to be ready. _____ we can have some soup.
- (a) Finally
 - (b) Since
 - (c) Meanwhile
 - (d) Further
63. He was facing a veteran politician. _____ he emerged a winner.
- (a) Therefore
 - (b) Thus
 - (c) Moreover
 - (d) Unexpectedly
64. You said Diana would speak against us. _____, she spoke in our favour.
- (a) Besides
 - (b) Equally
 - (c) Otherwise
 - (d) Conversely
65. The candidate was preferred because he had an MBA degree _____ being a post graduate.
- (a) yet
 - (b) since
 - (c) besides
 - (d) also

Directions (Questions 66 – 71): Use the content to choose the correct usage of the vocabularies given:-

66. The fever will soon abate.
- (a) grow less
 - (b) grow higher
 - (c) be over
 - (d) be gone
67. What is the reference in this passage?
- (a) Allusion
 - (b) Illusion
 - (c) Effect
 - (d) Affect
68. The mirage is but an illusion of the eyes.
- (a) Trouble
 - (b) Allusion
 - (c) Deception
 - (d) Change
69. A miser's apathy to human sufferings in no surprise.
- (a) Shout
 - (b) Indifference
 - (c) Dislike
 - (d) Bail
70. This is not a credible story.
- (a) good
 - (b) believable
 - (c) bad
 - (d) fair
71. You can not defy his orders.
- (a) delay
 - (b) postpone
 - (c) challenge
 - (d) clear

Directions (Questions 72 – 76) : Choose the word which has the similar meaning to the one given:-

72. Abandon

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| (a) forsake | (b) confess |
| (c) proclaim | (d) again |

73. Ardent

- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| (a) ancient | (b) eager |
| (c) old | (d) permit |

74. Colossal

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| (a) reveal | (b) manners |
| (c) gigantic | (d) convenient |

75. Deceit

- | | |
|------------|--------------|
| (a) demise | (b) diminish |
| (c) dusty | (d) guile |

76. Impetuous

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| (a) hasty | (b) sarcastic |
| (c) dormant | (d) tedious |

Directions (Questions 77 – 80): Choose the word which has the opposite meaning to the one given:-

77. Enmity

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| (a) enemy | (b) family |
| (c) hardship | (d) friendship |

78. Docile

- | | |
|-----------|--------------|
| (a) agile | (b) refine |
| (c) sweet | (d) stubborn |

79. Rash

- | | |
|--------------|----------|
| (a) cautious | (b) dull |
| (c) foul | (d) true |

80. Tame

- | | |
|----------|------------|
| (a) wild | (b) gentle |
| (c) cool | (d) dry |