

MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF INSPECTOR OF TAXES UNDER TAXATION DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM APRIL, 2018

GENERAL ENGLISH PAPER - I

Time Allowed : 3 hours

Full Marks : 100

Figures in the margin indicate full marks for the questions.

Attempt all questions.

1. Write an **essay** on any one of the following topics: (25)
- The prospects and consequences of internet at the present time
 - Man is a social being
 - Christianity and its impact on Mizo society

2. Write a **précis** of the given passage. Also provide a suitable title to your précis. (15)

Dear boy, now that you are going a little more into the world I will take this occasion to explain my intentions as to your plan accordingly. I shall neither deny nor grudge you any money that may be necessary for either your improvement or pleasures; I mean the pleasures of a rational being. Under the head of improvement I mean the best books, and the best masters cost what they will; I also mean all the expence of lodgings, coach, dress, servants, etc., which according to the several places where you may be, shall be respectively necessary to enable you to keep the best company. Under the head of rational pleasures I comprehend, first, proper charities to real and compassionate objects of it; secondly, proper presents to those to whom you are obliged, or whom you desire to oblige; thirdly, a conformity of expence to that of the company which you keep; as a public spectacles, you share of little entertainments, a few pistols at games of mere commerce and other incidental calls of good company. The only two articles which I will never supply are, the profusion of low riot, and the idle lavishness of negligence and laziness. A fool squanders away without credit or advantage to himself, more than a man of sense spends with both. The latter employs his money as he does his time, and never spends a shilling of the one, nor a minute of the other, but in something that is either useful or rationally pleasing to himself or others. The former buys whatever he does not want, and does not pay for what he does not want. He cannot withstand the charms of a toy-shop; snuff-boxes, watches, heads or canes, etc., are his destruction. His servants and tradesmen conspire with his own indolence to cheat him, and in a very little time he is astonished, in the midst of all the ridiculous superfluities, to find himself in want of all the real comforts and necessaries of life. Without care and method the largest fortune will not, and with them almost the smallest will, supply all necessary expences. Keep an account in a book, of all that you receive, and of all that you pay; for no man, who knows what he receives and what he pays, ever runs out.

3. Write a letter to the Commissioner of Police Aizawl, making him/her aware of the frequent cases of accidents caused by reckless drunken driving in your area. (15)

OR

Write a letter to the editor of *Vanglaini*, a local newspaper, drawing attention to the insanitary condition of the city bazaars. (15)

4. Choose the nearest possible meaning of the **idioms and phrases** from the hints provided within the bracket and also make appropriate sentences of the *idioms and phrases*. (7×2=14)

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| (a) flesh and blood | (b) off and on |
| (c) made his mark | (d) have it at my fingers' end |

- (e) put my foot down (f) made up my mind
(g) giving himself airs

(Hints: take a resolute stand, decided, behaving arrogantly, know it thoroughly, distinguished himself, human nature, now and then)

5. Expand the ideas contained in the following lines. Choose only 1 (one). (15)

- (a) *The noblest men that live on earth,
Are men whose hands are brown with toil.*

OR

- (b) *Houses are built to live in and not to look on.*

6. Comprehend the given passages and answer the questions that follow. Marks for each question is indicated at the end of the questions.

The third defect of our civilization is that it does not know what to do with its knowledge. Science has given us powers fit for the gods, yet we use them like small children. For example, we do not know how to manage our machines. Machines were made to be man's servants; yet he has grown so dependent on them that they are in a fair way to become his masters. Already most men spend most of their lives looking after and waiting upon machines. And the machines are very stern masters. They must be fed with coal, and given petrol to drink, and oil to wash with, and they must be kept at the right temperature. And if they do not get their meals when they expect them, they grow sulky and refuse to work, or burst with rage, and blow up, and spread ruin and destruction all round them. So we have to wait upon them very attentively and do all that we can to keep them in a good temper. Already we find it difficult either to work or play without the machines, and a time may come when they will rule us altogether, just as we rule the animals.

And this brings me to the point at which I asked, "What we do with all the time which the machines have saved for us, and the new energy they have given us?" On the whole, it must be admitted, we do very little. For the most part we use our time and energy to make more and better machines; but more and better machines will only give us still more time and still more energy, and what are we to do with them? The answer, I think, is that we should try to become more civilized. For the machines themselves, and the power which the machines have given us, are not civilization but aids to civilization. But you will remember that we agreed at the beginning that being civilized meant making and linking beautiful things, thinking freely, and living rightly and maintaining justice equally between man and man. Man has a better chance today to do these things than he ever had before; he has more time, more energy, less to fear and less to fight against. If he will give his time and energy which his machines have won for him to making more beautiful things, to finding out more and more about the universe, to removing the causes of quarrels between nations, to discovering how to prevent poverty, then I think our civilization would undoubtedly be the greater, as it would be the most lasting that there has ever been.

- (a) Instead of making machines our servants the author says they have become our masters. In what sense has this come about? (2)
- (b) The use of machines has brought us more leisure and more energy. But the author says that this has been a curse rather than a blessing. Why? (2)
- (c) What exactly is the meaning of "civilization"? Do you agree with the author's views? (2)
- (d) What does 'Making more beautiful things' stands for? Make a list of the beautiful things that you would like to make and how you would make them. (3)
- (e) Mention some plans you may have to prevent poverty in the world. Who would receive your most particular attention, and why? (3)
- (f) The author uses phrases like, "fed with coal"; "given petrol to drink"; "oil to wash"; "kept at the right temperature". What machines would require these needs? (4)