

MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF
ASSISTANT GRADE
UNDER GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM
MARCH, 2010

PAPER - I
(General English, Précis Writing, General Essay)

Time Allowed : 3 hours

Full Marks : 125

Figures in the margin indicate full marks for the questions.

Attempt all questions.

1. Write a précis of the following and give a suitable title. (25)

Discipline consists of more than punishment, at the hand of authority, for wrongdoing. It includes self discipline; the regulation by a man of his own heart and mind, the cultivation of discernment, virtue and noble tastes and sentiments and the suppression of unbalanced passions, vice and mean disposition. Discipline, therefore, is a way of life.

The undisciplined man is a slave to passion, luxury and sloth. He entertains dreams on a large scale but reality of his existence is sordid. On the other hand, the disciplined man is a free man. His judgement is sound because he is trained and experienced in responsible judgement. His means are independent. His life is free of the debilitating influence of vice. He is able to discern between that which seems good and that which is good.

Although discipline does not consist merely of punishment, at the hand of authority, for wrongdoing, this external discipline is nevertheless very important, as an essential part in training the individual to be self disciplined (by means of punishments, rewards and warnings). This is necessary and proper, both for the sake of the individual and society at large. This external discipline is necessary, for example, in schools, in order to induce the recalcitrant student to concentrate on his studies and observe proper behaviour as well as to protect the other students from a corrupting and disruptive influence. Punishment may, at times, seem harsh but it is justified by the miscreant guilt. A failure by authority to impose discipline leads to the proliferation (under personal license and peer pressure) of indiscipline and the influence of bullies. The decay of discipline in our society is reflected in the increasing numbers of people who resort to violence and crude behaviour when provoked.

Discipline is necessary for all achievements, especially great achievements. Without discipline there can be no scientific advances (e.g. no penicillin), no entrepreneurial, industrial or technological achievement (eg. no mass produced motor car), no settled system of law and order, no literary achievement, no exploration and development of a new land (eg. Australia since 1777) and no proclamation of religious truth, because all of these matters require the careful, vigorous sustained application of trained and balanced minds and bodies. Discipline goes hand in hand with hard work. Discipline makes it possible for a man to endure the rigour of hard work. Discipline directs work, making it fruitful and excellent. On the other hand, discipline is fruitless without work.

2. Write an essay (in about 500 words) on any one of the following:- **(25)**

- (a) Ideal Work Culture
- (b) Education in Mizoram
- (c) Drug Abuse: Problems and Solutions in Mizoram

3. Read the poem and answer the questions:

All the world's a stage,
And all the men and women merely players;
They have their exits and their entrances,
And one man in his time plays many parts,
His acts being seven ages. At first, the infant
Mewling and puking in the nurse's arms.
Then the whining schoolboy, with his satchel
And shining morning face, creeping like snail
Unwillingly to school. And then the lover,
Sighing like furnace, with a woeful ballad
Made to his mistress' eyebrow. Then a soldier,
Full of strange oaths and bearded like the pard,
Jealous in honor, sudden and quick in quarrel,
Seeking the bubble reputation
Even in the cannon's mouth. And then the justice,
In fair round belly with good capon lined,
With eyes severe and beard of formal cut,
Full of wise saws and modern instances;
And so he plays his part. The sixth age shifts
Into the lean and slippered pantaloon,
With spectacles on nose and pouch on side;
His youthful hose, well saved, a world too wide
For his shrunk shank, and his big manly voice,
Turning again toward childish treble, pipes
And whistles in his sound. Last scene of all,
That ends this strange eventful history,
Is second childishness and mere oblivion,
Sans teeth, sans eyes sans taste, sans everything.

- (a) Describe in two or three sentences the central idea that the poet tries to convey in the poem. **(3)**
- (b) How many stages of life does the poet describe in the poem? Describe each stage briefly. **(3)**
- (c) What does the poet mean by "bubble reputation"? **(2)**
- (d) Why are men and women compared to players on a stage? **(2)**

4. Fill in the blanks with appropriate articles wherever necessary: **(10×1=10)**

To achieve anything, to become anything, you've got to be hard and ruthless. Yes even if you want to be _____ saint, if you want to love _____ world, you've got to stop loving _____ individual human beings first. And if they love you and they bleed when you show them you don't love them, not specially, well, so much _____ worse for them! There's just no other way of being _____ saint, or _____ painter, _____ writer.

I've always found writing easy. _____ words came to me with _____ facility that pleased me. But now for some reason, I am reminded of _____ process of childbirth.

5. Use the correct tense of the verbs: **(10×1=10)**

- (a) The farmer _____ (cut) the corn which _____ (ripe)
- (b) He _____ (sleep) when we _____ (arrive).
- (c) John _____ (drink) coffee every morning.
- (d) I _____ (go) home next Sunday.
- (e) To err _____ (be) human.
- (f) He _____ (give) her a book which she _____ (refuse) to read.
- (g) All parents _____ (love) their children.

6. Make sentences with any ten (10) of the following words: **(10×1=10)**

- (a) empathy
- (b) shame
- (c) accessible
- (d) transient
- (e) recipient
- (f) privacy
- (g) morbid
- (h) recalcitrant
- (i) priority
- (j) reverence
- (k) delinquent
- (l) retrospect
- (m) leisure
- (n) emancipate
- (o) serial

7. Make sentences with any five (5) of the following idioms: **(5×2=10)**

- (a) add fuel to the flames
- (b) back to square one
- (c) a piece of cake
- (d) call a spade a spade
- (e) deaf ear
- (f) face the music
- (g) make ends meet
- (h) hand in glove
- (i) neck and neck
- (j) white lie

8. Change the voice either into active or passive in the following sentences:- (10×1=10)

- (a) Manners reveal character.
- (b) He is loved by all.
- (c) The road was lined with people
- (d) John promised her a present
- (e) The horse was frightened by the noise.
- (f) You cannot pump the ocean dry.
- (g) People will soon forget it.
- (h) He kept me waiting.
- (i) Not a word was spoken by Mary.
- (j) He told me to leave the room.

9. Correct the following sentences: (10×1=10)

- (a) I write a book.
- (b) He prefers fish than beef.
- (c) He was playing football every Saturday.
- (d) She sang when I saw her in the room
- (e) Every seat were taken
- (f) He has few influence with his old followers.
- (g) Could you lend me a few money?
- (h) Each one of these chairs are broken.
- (i) I will not buy some mangoes.
- (j) The sun is setting in the west.

10. Elaborate the statement given below in one paragraph only. (5)

a stitch in time saves nine

or

make hay while the sun shines