

MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

TECHNICAL COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR RECRUITMENT TO JUNIOR GRADE OF MIZORAM ENGINEERING SERVICE (CIVIL) CONTRACT UNDER DISASTER MANAGEMENT & REHABILITATION DEPARTMENT, JANUARY 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) Public hygiene and sanitation – a national issue
 - (b) Terrorism – a global threat
 - (c) The role of the media

SECTION - B **(80 Marks)**

All questions carry equal marks of 2 each. Attempt all questions.

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

Directions (Questions 1 – 6): Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

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 favourite 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 jester. 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 that he was pulled out of the jaws of death.

1. 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.
2. 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.
 - (d) He thought the king would appreciate it.
3. 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.
4. Why did the king become angry with the jester?
 - (a) One day the jester refused to entertain the courtiers.
 - (b) The jester humiliated the courtiers.
 - (c) The king was in a wretched mood.
 - (d) The king felt insulted and offended.
5. What made the jester arrogant and conceited?
 - (a) His divine power of making interesting jokes.
 - (b) His excellent manners and sophistication.
 - (c) His sky-rocketing popularity.
 - (d) His powerful imagination and forceful vocabulary.
6. Which of the following statements is not true in the context of the passage?
 - (a) The jester was witty and intelligent.
 - (b) The king was angry with the joke of the jester.
 - (c) The jester was a favourite of the king and his court.
 - (d) The jester expressed the desire to die of old age.

Directions (Questions 7 – 14): Pick the correct meaning of the idioms and phrases from the given alternatives.

7. A mentor

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| (a) A good person | (b) A talented man |
| (c) A strong person | (d) A trusted adviser |

8. Ill at ease

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| (a) Restless | (b) Worthless |
| (c) Listless | (d) Sleepless |

9. A block head
(a) A poet (b) A dull person
(c) A strange person (d) A poor person
10. The salt of the earth
(a) The best people (b) The rich people
(c) The merry people (d) The old people
11. Hobson's choice
(a) Multiple choice (b) No choice at all
(c) Selective choice (d) One choice
12. A gentleman at large
(a) A punctual person (b) A reliable fellow
(c) An unreliable person (d) An honest person
13. To come home to
(a) To be kept waiting (b) To give credit to
(c) To offer (d) To understand
14. To bring one's egg to a bad market
(a) To fail in one's plan because one goes to the wrong person for help.
(b) To bring one's commodities to a market where there is no demand for them.
(c) To show one's talent before an audience incapable of appreciating them.
(d) To act when the opportunity is lost.

Directions (Questions 15 – 19): Fill in the blanks with correct prepositions.

15. This watch is a gift _____ my uncle.
(a) by (b) from
(c) of (d) in
16. He spoke _____ the subject for two hours continuously.
(a) in (b) on
(c) of (d) with
17. They have quarreled _____ a piece of land.
(a) at (b) on
(c) for (d) over
18. I was invited _____ tea by his mother.
(a) for (b) to
(c) with (d) in
19. He is not an honest man. You cannot rely _____ him.
(a) to (b) for
(c) at (d) on

Directions (Questions 20 – 24): Use the correct nouns/phrasal verbs from the alternatives given.

20. I would not want his shift, he has to wake up _____ 3 AM everyday.
(a) none (b) on
(c) at (d) in
21. I don't have any plans _____ Christmas Day because my entire family lives overseas.
(a) for (b) in
(c) about (d) at
22. The boys gathered a bundle of _____
(a) sticks (b) people
(c) beads (d) houses
23. Over by the railroad tracks, there was a heap of _____
(a) houses (b) flowers
(c) stairs (d) stones
24. In the distance, the onlookers could see a fleet of _____
(a) players (b) insects
(c) stairs (d) ships

Directions (Questions 25 – 32): Analyse the words underlined, and pick the correct alternative.

25. The dog that barks does not bite.
(a) Noun clause (b) Adjective clause
(c) Principal clause (d) Relative clause
26. We eat so that we may live
(a) Relative clause (b) Adverb clause
(c) Noun clause (d) Adjective clause
27. Please ask him what he wants.
(a) Adjective clause (b) Noun clause
(c) Relative clause (d) Adverb clause
28. This is the place where the murder was committed.
(a) Noun clause (b) Relative clause
(c) Adjective clause (d) Adverb clause
29. The meeting came to a close at 6 PM.
(a) Noun (b) Verb
(c) Adjective (d) Adverb
30. Please close the shop now.
(a) Noun (b) Verb
(c) Adjective (d) Adverb
31. Well begun is half done.
(a) Noun (b) Verb
(c) Adjective (d) Adverb
32. You are well now.
(a) Noun (b) Verb
(c) Adjective (d) Adverb

Directions (Questions 33 – 40): Fill up the blanks in the passage given below with the most appropriate word from the options given for each blank.

New industries supported by foreign interests (33) _____ offer (34) _____ salaries to their employees at all levels of responsibility than (35) _____ the locally-owned industries. They need (36) _____ people and are (37) _____ to pay high wages to (38) _____ them. Local industries often (39) _____ the high salaries offered by foreign-supported industries, arguing that this will (40) _____ raise all wages to an excessive level

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| 33. (a) hardly | (b) reluctantly |
| (c) seldom | (d) usually |
| 34. (a) better | (b) comparable |
| (c) unreasonable | (d) proportionate |
| 35. (a) did | (b) could |
| (c) do | (d) their |
| 36. (a) local | (b) several |
| (c) more | (d) talented |
| 37. (a) willing | (b) bound |
| (c) forced | (d) authorised |
| 38. (a) entertain | (b) retain |
| (c) enrich | (d) hire |
| 39. (a) imitate | (b) protest |
| (c) pay | (d) accept |
| 40. (a) hardly | (b) considerably |
| (c) artificially | (d) unreasonably |

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