

MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
TECHNICAL COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR RECRUITMENT TO
JUNIOR GRADE OF MIZORAM ENGINEERING SERVICE
UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, 2014

GENERAL ENGLISH

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 topics given below. (20)
- (a) Travel as a part of education.
 - (b) Conservation of water resources.
 - (c) If I were the Prime Minister of India.

2. Write a précis of the following passage: (20)

With high levels of mobile telephone penetration, a mobile culture has evolved, where the phone becomes a key social tool, and people rely on their mobile phone address books to keep in touch with their friends as well as others. Many people keep in touch using SMS and a whole culture of 'texting' has developed from this. The commercial market in SMS is growing. Many phones even offer Instant Messenger Services to increase the simplicity and ease of texting on phones. The phone itself has become a status symbol and fashion object, with users decorating, customising and adding different accessories to their mobile phones to reflect their personality. Thus it has emerged as a separate industry. However, this has given rise to an increase in criminal and unethical activities as well.

Mobile phone etiquettes have become an important issue with mobiles ringing at weddings, movies, plays and funerals. People use their mobiles in a loud voice without caring for others. Due to concerns of possible interference with aircraft radio communications, many airline companies offer a 'quiet car' where phone use is prohibited. As with many new technologies, there is a growing concern about the effect of mobile phones on the health of the users. There is some amount of scientific evidence which suggest a risk of a certain type of rare tumours to persistent users. More recently, a study provided significant evidence of genetic damage under certain conditions. Some researchers also allege that mobile phone industry has interfered with further research on health risks. Several studies have shown that motorists have a much higher risk of collision rate and losing control of the vehicle because of talking over the mobile phone coupled with driving, even if they use the 'hands-free' system. Mobiles have been major distractor on the roads and are proving to be as harmful as driving under the influence of alcohol.

Despite all the abuses of mobile phones, one cannot deny their advantages. They are one's easily available help in case of emergency. They save a lot of time and energy in making multiple calls to track a single person. Thus they increase direct one-to-one relationship. They also keep loved and dear ones well connected by way of SMS. One can also listen to songs, play games, and get live cricket scores, market-updates and even the headlines. No matter where one goes, mobile phones are the only hope of keeping families connected without any hassle.

3. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

Forecasting the weather or trying to find out what it will be like in several days' time, has always been a difficult business. Many different things affect the weather and each one has to be carefully studied before we can make even a fairly accurate forecast. The ancient Egyptians, of course, had no need of this because the weather in the Nile Valley hardly ever changes but people living farther north had to protect themselves and their crops. During a period of drought, when no rain fell for weeks on end, streams and rivers dried up, cattle died from thirst and crops were ruined. A storm could wreck ships and houses and heavy falls of rain caused river to flood a whole countryside. Actions in the sky stirred man into action, and in this respect farmers became just as men of actions as were sailors on the high seas. Both had to reckon with the weather –it often upset their plans, sometimes with disastrous results.

In early times, when there were no instruments such as thermometer or barometer, man looked for tell-tale signs in the sky. He made his forecasts by watching the flights of birds or the way smoke rose from a fire. He thought that the moon controlled the weather, that it held a lot of water, especially when as a crescent or sickle shaped moon it lay on its back. Even today there are people who think that the sight of the moon on its back means that the rain is on its way. Many of the weather sayings are still heard today. A red sky at night is the shepherd's delight. A red sky in the morning is the shepherd's warning. Do you believe this? It's sometimes right but more often wrong. If this and hundreds of other sayings like it were true, there would be no need for weather science or meteorology.

- (a) Why is it not easy to forecast the weather? (4)
- (b) What is drought and what are its consequences? (4)
- (c) Does the author endorse popular sayings about the weather? (4)
- (d) How would the moon help the people in forecasting weather? (4)
- (e) The ancient Egyptians had no need of weather forecast. Why? (4)

4. Correct the following sentences:

(10×1=10)

- (a) Great many people attended the meeting.
- (b) The whole India mourned the death of Nehru.
- (c) From when have you been here?
- (d) He picks up a quarrel with everybody.
- (e) My mother went to buy some new stationeries.
- (f) It is dangerous to walk in the centre of the road.
- (g) The quality of the oranges were not good.
- (h) Honour and glory are his reward.
- (i) Silver, as well as cotton, have fallen in price.
- (j) I haven't got no money.

5. Give words opposite in meaning to the underlined words in each sentence:

(5×1=5)

- (a) I deposited all the money at the bank.
- (b) The gems are priceless.
- (c) The crowd assembled at the park.
- (d) The old man was very generous.
- (e) John is hostile towards his family.

6. Write out the following sentences using an appropriate form of the words within brackets **(5×1=5)**
- (a) The (remove) of poverty is no easy task.
 - (b) (Punctual) is essential in this job.
 - (c) Have you no (curious) in you?
 - (d) He was punished for his (atrocious) crime.
 - (e) India and Pakistan should (normalize) their relations.
7. Use any five (5) of the following Idioms and Phrases in meaningful sentences: **(5×1=5)**
- (a) At the spur of the moment
 - (b) Bear the brunt of
 - (c) Beside the mark
 - (d) Cut a sorry figure
 - (e) Dog in the manger
 - (f) Follow suit
 - (g) High and dry
 - (h) Helter Skelter
8. Choose the correct word from each pair in the bracket and rewrite the sentences: **(5×1=5)**
- (a) To be charitable is (virtuous, virtuous)
 - (b) Judges have (judicial, judicious) power to decide cases.
 - (c) The tourist walked over to the (brink, brim) of the cliff to take a picture.
 - (d) I can (deduct, deduce) from his appearance that James is going to a party.
 - (e) Many riots are the outcome of (inflammable, inflammatory) rumours.
9. Make sentences to show the difference between the following pairs of words: **(5×2=10)**
- (a) Beneficial; Beneficent
 - (b) Cite; Site
 - (c) Course; Coarse
 - (d) Disease; Decease
 - (e) Incite; Insight

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