

MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
LIMITED DEPARTMENTAL EXAMINATIONS FOR PROMOTION TO
FUNCTIONAL MANAGER UNDER INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT
FEBRUARY, 2016

GENERAL ENGLISH

Time Allowed : 3 hours

Full Marks : 100

Marks for each question is indicated against it.

Attempt all questions.

1. Write an essay on ***any one (1)*** of the given topics in about 900 words. **(20)**
- (a) Tourism – The Major Revenue Earning Industry
 - (b) Wastage of money and Man power during Election
 - (c) Evil of Smoking
 - (d) Small Scale Industry – The backbone of the Nation
2. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follows:

I stopped to let the car cool off and to study the map. I had expected to be near my objective by now, but everything still seems alien to me. I was only five when my father had taken me abroad, and that was eighteen years ago. When my mother had died after a tragic accident, he did not quickly recover from the shock of loneliness. Everything around him was full of presence, continually reopening the wound. So he decided to emigrate. In the new country he became absorbed in making a new life for the two of us, so that he gradually ceased to grieve. He did not marry again and I was brought up without a woman's care; but I lacked for nothing for he was both father and mother to me. He always meant to go back one day, but not to stay. His roots and mine had become too firmly embedded in the new land. But he wanted to see the old folk again and to visit my mother's grave. He became mortally ill a few months before we had planned to go and, when he knew that he was dying, he made me promise to go on my own.

I hired a car the day after landing and bought a comprehensive book of maps, which I found most useful on the cross country journey, but which I did not think I should need on the last stage. It was not that I actually remembered anything at all. But my father had described over and over again what we should see at every milestone, after leaving the nearest town, so that I was positive I should recognise it is familiar territory. Well, I had been wrong, for I was now lost.

I looked at the map and then at the speedometer. I had come ten miles since leaving the town, and at this point, according to my father, I should be looking at farms and cottages in a valley, with the spire of the church of our village showing in the far distance. I could see no valley, no farms, no cottages and no church spire - only a lake. I decided that I must have taken

a wrong turning somewhere. So I drove back to the town and began to retrace the route, taking frequent glances at the map. I landed up at the same corner. The curious thing was that the lake was not marked on the map. I felt as if I had stumbled into a nightmare country, as you sometimes do in dreams. And, as in a nightmare, there was nobody in sight to help me. Fortunately for me, as I was wondering what to do next, there appeared on the horizon a man on horseback, riding in my direction. I waited till he came near, then I asked him the way to our old village. He said that there was now no village. I thought he must have misunderstood me, so I repeated its name. This time he pointed to the lake. The village no longer existed because it had been submerged, and the entire valley too. The lake was not a natural one, but man made reservoir.

- (a) Why did the author's father emigrate? (2)
- (b) Why did the author not feel the absence of his mother after her death? (2)
- (c) What made the author think that he would not need a map for the last part of his journey? (2)
- (d) Why could the author not locate his old village? (2)
- (e) Pick up the word from the passage which mean the following : (2×1=2)
 - (i) Frightening or unpleasant dream.
 - (ii) To go under surface of water.

3. Write a précis of the following passage in one-third of its original length. Supply a suitable title. (10)

And then Gandhi came. He was like a powerful current of fresh air that made us stretch ourselves and take deep breaths; like a beam of light that pierced the darkness and removed the scales from our eyes; like a whirlwind that upset many things, but most of all the working of people's mind. He did not descend from the top; he seemed to emerge from the millions of India, speaking their language and incessantly drawing attention to them and their appalling attention. Get off the backs of these peasants and workers he told us, all you who live by their exploitation, get rid of system that produces this poverty and misery. Political freedom took new shape then and acquire a new content. Much that he said we only partially accepted or sometimes did not accept at all. But all this was secondary. The essence of his teaching was fearlessness and truth, and action allied to these always keeping the welfare of the masses in view. The greatest gift for an individual or a nation, so we had been told in our ancient book was abhaya, (fearlessness), not merely bodily courage but the absence of fear from the mind. Janaka and Yajnavalkya had said, at the dawn of our history, that it was the function of the leaders of a people to make them fearless. But the dominant impulse in India under British rule was that of fear-pervasive, oppressing strangling fear: fear of the army, the police, the widespread secret service: fear of the official classes; fear of the laws meant to suppress and of prison; fear of the landlord's agent, fear of the money lender; fear of unemployment and starvation, which were always on the threshold. It was against this all pervading fear that Gandhiji's quiet and determined voice was raised. Be not afraid. Was it so simple as all that? Not quite. And yet fear builds its phantoms which are more fearsome than reality itself and reality, when calmly and its consequences willingly accepted loses much of its terror. (318 Words)

4. (a) Write a letter to the Manager, Akash Stationery, 22 Mount Road, Chennai complaining about the parcel of stationery items which you have received in a damaged state. You are Zama Sailo, 88 MG Road, Aizawl. (10)

OR

- (b) You are the Sales Manager of a reputed firm manufacturing garments and your firm wants to compete in the export market. Write a letter to the Controller of Exports, Govt. of India, requesting for the necessary licence and mentioning the items in which you specialise, their quality, cost, etc. (10)

5. Expand the idea contained in any one (1) of the following (5)

- (a) Where there is a will, there is a way
(b) Charity begins at home
(c) Birds of a feather flock together

6. Convert the following sentences : (5×1=5)

- (a) He failed although he did his best. (Change into compound)
(b) Liana was very tired and therefore he fell asleep. (Change into Complex)
(c) Unless you leave this room. I will compel you to do so. (Change into Compound)
(d) She must weep or she will die. (change into complex)
(e) I have lost the book which my father gave me. (Change into compound)

7. Change the following sentences as directed : (5×1=5)

- (a) Who else could have done it? (Change into assertive)
(b) He saw someone in the house. (Change into interrogative)
(c) A good girl never neglects her lesson. (Change into affirmative)
(d) Everybody must admit that he was a great man. (Change into negative)
(e) I am very desirous to meet you once more. (Change into exclamatory)

8. Join the following simple sentences into a single simple sentence. (5×1=5)

- (a) A crow stole a piece of cheese. She flew to her nest. She wanted to have a tasty meal.
(b) He had found out his mistake. He was very sorry. It was too late.
(c) The train started. He did not arrive at the station.
(d) There was a man hiding in my garden. He was armed with a gun. He was a Pathan. My notice was drawn to it.
(e) I lost my way. I asked a policeman to direct me. He was new to his work. He could not help me.

9. Correct usage and vocabularies:

A. Give the words expression which mean: (5×1=5)

- (i) bureaucracy and rules and regulations that restrict industry
- (ii) a weak industry that is losing money and cannot be rescued
- (iii) illegal production of goods using another company's brand name
- (iv) publishing or copying a book or work of art without the author's permission
- (v) stealing or destroying a rival company's plans or secrets

B. Choose one of the words below each to fill the gaps. (5×1=5)

- (i) Since giving up smoking; I now find that I _____ chocolate.
(a) thirst (b) crave (c) hunger
- (ii) Martha is very good at _____ difficult situations.
(a) placating (b) appeasing (c) defusing
- (iii) She had so many _____ obligations; her life was not her own.
(a) burdensome (b) cumbersome (c) lonesome
- (iv) I'm going to _____ into town in my lunch hour. Can I get you anything?
(a) plunge (b) nip (c) bolt
- (v) His salary was not enough to _____ his wife and five children.
(a) feed (b) satisfy (c) sustain

10. Choose the correct form of nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs from the alternatives given: (5×1=5)

- (a) Rose is _____ upset about losing her job.
(i) suddenly (ii) terribly (iii) seriously
- (b) He tried _____ to find a job, but he had no luck.
(i) hardly (ii) bravely (iii) hard
- (c) If you invest your money on the stock market, you risk _____ it.
(i) losing (ii) fitting (iii) shooting
- (d) John is a small boy. He weighs nine _____.
(i) stones (ii) stone (iii) pounds
- (e) It's good to visit other places. I enjoy _____.
(i) travelling (ii) visiting (iii) journeys

11. Fill in the blanks with appropriate prepositions. (5×1=5)

- (a) Is your sister _____ this photograph? I don't recognise her.
- (b) We drove along the main road for about a kilometer and then turned _____ a narrow side street.
- (c) I decided not to go by car. I went _____ my bike instead.
- (d) Who is that man standing _____ the window?
- (e) I want to have a good holiday. I don't care _____ the cost.

12. Make sentences with *any five (5)* of the following idioms and phrases. (5×2=10)

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| (a) creature of a day | (b) to break the ice |
| (c) fool's paradise | (d) to join the majority |
| (e) armed to the teeth | (f) penny-wise and pound foolish |
| (g) dog-in-the manger | (h) swing the pendulum |

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