

MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

GENERAL COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN UNDER ART & CULTURE DEPARTMENT MARCH, 2013

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 in about 500 words: (25)
 - (a) Punishment for sex offenders.
 - (b) Relevance of reading in a Digital Age.
 - (c) The pros and cons of Social Networking.

2. Write a précis of the following passage giving it a suitable title: (15)

Man is forever changing the face of nature. He has been doing so since he first appeared on the earth. Yet, all that man has done is not always to the ultimate advantage of the earth or himself. Man has, in fact, destroyed more than necessary. In his struggle to live and extract the most out of life, man has destroyed many species of wildlife; directly by sheer physical destruction, and indirectly by the destruction or alteration of habitats. Some species may be able to withstand disruptions to their habitat while others may not be able to cope.

Take the simple act of farming. When a farmer tills a rough ground, he makes it unsuitable for the survival of certain species. Every change in land use brings about a change in the types of plant and animals found on that land. When man builds a new town, this means the total destruction of vast areas of farmland or woodland. Here, you have the complete destruction of entire habitats and it is inevitable.

It follows therefore, that every form of human activity unavoidably upsets or changes the wildlife complex of the area. Man has destroyed many forms of wildlife for no reasonable purpose. They have also made many great blunders in land use, habitat destruction and the extermination of many forms of wildlife.

Man's attitude towards animals depends on the degree to which his own survival is affected. He sets aside protection for animals that he hunts for sport and wages a war on any other creature that may pose a danger or inconvenience to him. This creates many problems and man has made irreversible, serious errors in his destruction of predators. He has destroyed animals and birds which are useful to farmers as pest controllers. The tragedy that emerges is that all the killing of predators did not in any way increase the number of game birds. Broadly speaking, man wages war against the creatures which he considers harmful, even when his warfare makes little or no difference to the numbers of those he encourages. There is a delicate predator and prey equilibrium involving also the vegetation of any area, which man can upset by thoughtless intervention.

Therefore, there is a need for the implementation of checks and balances. The continued existence of these animals depends entirely on man and his attitude towards his own future.

3. Write a letter to a friend about your recent visit to a high school which you both had studied in. (15)

OR

Write an application to the Superintendent, Government Central Press asking for a list of Government publications relating to teak plantation in Mizoram and enquiring if any periodical is published on the subject. (15)

4. Make sentences with any fifteen of the idioms and phrases given below: (15)

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|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| (a) live from hand to mouth | (b) lend a hand |
| (c) turn over a new leaf | (d) eat ones's own words |
| (e) turn a deaf ear | (f) in cold blood |
| (g) be at odds | (h) catch red-handed |
| (i) by hook or by crook | (j) kith and kin |
| (k) coining money | (l) let off the hook |
| (m) a finger in the pie | (n) where the shoe pinches |
| (o) in cold blood | (p) ill at ease |
| (q) hard of hearing | (r) every inch |
| (s) against time | (t) take into account |

5. Expand the idea contained in any one of the following: (15)

- (a) Slow and steady wins the race.
- (b) Where there's a will, there's a way.
- (c) Adversity is the touchstone of character.

6. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

However, despite the beliefs of these 17-21 million people, there is no evidence that accidents are more likely to happen on Friday the 13th. On the contrary, some studies have shown there are actually *fewer* accidents on Friday the 13th. A recent report completed by a Dutch insurance company showed that there were fewer incidents of fires and theft on Fridays that fell on the 13th than on any other Fridays in the same year. It is highly probable that this reduction in accidents owes itself to the fear of Friday the 13th itself. If people are more cautious on Friday the 13th, then there are likely to be fewer accidents.

If, then, there is no significant evidence that Friday the 13th is any more dangerous than any other day of the year, why do friggatriskaidekaphobics remain convinced of its unluckiness? While the historical or folk traditions discussed earlier may have something to do with this belief, people may also use associational links to justify their superstitions. If a friggatriskaidekaphobic loses his wallet on Tuesday the 21st, for example, he would probably not assign any meaning to the date on which this event occurred. If the same individual lost his wallet on Friday the 13th, however, he might be likely to conclude that the inauspicious nature of Friday the 13th was at fault.

- (a) What did the report compiled by the Dutch insurance company suggest? (3)
- (b) Why are there fewer accidents on Fridays that fall on the 13th? (3)
- (c) Why is Friday the 13th considered to be unlucky? (3)
- (d) Based on your reading of the passage, what do you think the word *friggatriskaidekaphobic* means? (3)
- (e) Suggest a suitable title for the passage. (3)