

MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

TECHNICAL COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF GRADE-V OF MIZORAM HORTICULTURE SERVICE UNDER HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM NOVEMBER, 2017

GENERAL ENGLISH PAPER - I

Time Allowed : 3 hours

Full Marks : 100

Figures in the margin indicate full marks for the questions.

1. Write an essay on ***any one*** of the following topics: **(25)**
 - Have humans become too dependent on technology?
 - Is it more effective to volunteer your time or to donate money to a cause you support?
 - Who should bear the responsibility for making change in a society: individual citizens or elected officials?

2. Write a précis of the following passage to about one third of its original length and supply a suitable title. **(15)**

When we survey our lives and efforts we soon observe that almost the whole of our actions and desires are bound up with the existence of other human beings. We notice that the whole nature resembles that of the social animals. We eat food that others have produced, wear clothes that others have made, live in houses that others have built. The greater part of our knowledge and beliefs has been passed on to us by other people through the medium of a language which others have created. Without language and mental capacities, we would have been poor indeed comparable to higher animals.

We have, therefore, to admit that we owe our principal knowledge over the least to the fact of living in human society. The individual if left alone from birth would remain primitive and beast like in his thoughts and feelings to a degree that we can hardly imagine. The individual is what he is and has the significance that he has, not so much in virtue of the individuality, but rather as a member of a great human community, which directs his material and spiritual existence from the cradle to grave.

3. (a) Write a letter to the Director of Horticulture responding to a job advertisement and request an interview. Add your resume. **(15)**

OR

- (b) Write a detailed report to the Editor of a local Newspaper, of the 5th Horticulture Fair held in the month of August, 2017 at AR Ground. **(15)**

4. Make sentences choosing **any five** of the following Idioms and Phrases bringing out its meaning. **(5×3=15)**
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| (a) keep a cool head | (b) in hot water |
| (c) a taste of one's own medicine | (d) have the Midas touch |
| (e) tie the knot | (f) fan the flames |
| (g) give a run for money | (h) be as dead as a dodo |
| (i) snake in the grass | (j) hit the bull's eye |

5. Expand the following gist of sentences rendering it into a complete and meaningful passage. **(15)**

'Look before you leap' ... proverbial saying ... we should think over ... plunging into action ... life ... an uphill journey ... essential not to rush into ... without thinking ... Man is the crown of creation ... God blessed ... with fertile brain ... we should be guided by our brain ... People ... work with rashness and thoughtlessness ... failure ... proportion and balance between thought and action

6. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions below:

For children too there is no greater instrument of education than the conversation they hear at home. It is unjust to them when nothing is spoken before them but the trifles of dress, the gossip of the neighbourhood, and the cares of the household which press too heavily upon the parents, the follies and vanities of the world, which are hardly apprehended by their innocent minds. They are naturally imitative, and a great part of their character is derived from their parents. If there is no life or mirth in a house, the children of the house will be commonly dull and stupid; and if they never hear subjects rationally discussed, they will not learn to think or reason. If the world in which we live is allowed to pass unheeded by, they will be without interests, listless and unobservant. This home education which they acquire insensibly is as important as the formal work of the school, and is as much our duty to provide food for their minds as for their bodies. They do not live by bread alone, but by every word uttered out of the mouth.

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| (a) Why does the author call conversation an 'instrument of education'? | (3) |
| (b) What sort of conversation does the author think is bad for children? | (3) |
| (c) Why does the author think that children may become dull and stupid? | (3) |
| (d) What conversation helps children to think and reason? | (3) |
| (e) What should parents do to prevent children becoming 'without interests, listless and unobservant'? | (3) |

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