

MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE POSTS OF
FISHERY EXTENSION OFFICER
UNDER FISHERIES DEPARTMENT, DECEMBER, 2017

GENERAL ENGLISH
PAPER – I

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 following: **(20)**
- Women empowerment is no longer necessary.
 - ‘Tlawmngaihna’ in modern Mizo society.
 - The biggest problem affecting youths of today.

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

Despite the beliefs of over 17-21 million people worldwide, 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? Historically, the date is associated with the Last Supper of Christ, in which there were thirteen people, and the thirteenth guest, Judas, caused Jesus’ crucifixion on Good Friday. Norse mythology also contains a story in which twelve gods were interrupted by a thirteenth uninvited guest, Loki, who caused the death of another god. While these historical or folk traditions 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? **(2)**
- (b) Why are there fewer accidents on Fridays that fall on the 13th? **(2)**
- (c) Why is Friday the 13th considered to be unlucky? **(3)**
- (d) How might a friggatriskaidekaphobic use associational links to justify his fear of Friday the 13th? **(2)**
- (e) Based on your reading of the passage, what do you think the word friggatriskaidekaphobic means? **(2)**
- (f) Give the meaning of the following words as used in the passage: **(5)**
 - (i) evidence (ii) Contrary (iii) superstitions
 - (v) significant (v) inauspicious

3. Use **any eight (8)** of the following idioms and phrases in sentences to highlight their meaning: **(8×2=16)**

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| (a) To eat one's own words | (b) To be dressed to the nines |
| (c) Apple of one's eyes | (d) To turn a deaf ear |
| (e) A bolt from the blue | (f) To burn the midnight oil |
| (g) between a rock and a hard place | (h) to break the ice |
| (i) to eat humble pie | (j) an uphill task |
| (k) in the same boat | (l) fool's paradise |

4. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate Parts of Speech from the alternatives given below: **(8×1=8)**

- (i) I am _____ sorry about this mistake.
(a) Terrifically (b) terrified (c) terribly
- (ii) I was very impressed with her _____.
(a) Beautifully (b) beauty (c) beautifulness
- (iii) If you work _____, you will succeed.
(a) Hard (b) hardily (c) hardly
- (iv) I am deeply saddened by the _____ of my best friend.
(a) Lost (b) loose (c) loss
- (v) The money they found was not _____ but they took it anyway.
(a) Their's (b) theirs (c) there
- (vi) John _____ for a walk every morning.
(a) Goes (b) went (c) go
- (vii) The hotel was much _____ than she expected.
(a) Farther (b) further (c) far
- (viii) This book is _____ to that.
(a) More better (b) far better (c) as better

5. Fill in the blanks with the correct prepositions and conjunctions: **(8×1=8)**

- i) _____ he is poor, he is generous.
(a) Yet (b) since (c) though
- ii) He sat _____ me on the train.
(a) Beside (b) besides (c) aside
- iii) He lives in the apartment _____ mine.
(a) Under (b) underneath (c) below
- iv) He is guilty; _____, he must be punished.
(a) In case (b) yet (c) hence
- v) _____ he quit smoking, he has become healthier.
(a) Since (b) though (c) therefore
- vi) The police promised to look _____ the matter of the missing necklace.
(a) For (b) up (c) into
- vii) I ran _____ your mother yesterday.
(a) Across (b) into (c) through
- viii) He no longer cared _____ looking after himself.
(a) For (b) about (c) with

5. Convert the following sentences as directed: **(8×1=8)**
- (i) He gave his best efforts. He failed. (*Change into compound*)
 - (ii) I was exhausted and therefore I fell asleep. (*Change into complex*)
 - (iii) Unless you agree to keep silent, I shall lock you in this room. (*Change into compound*)
 - (iv) You must work or you will starve. (*Change into complex*)
 - (v) He is punctual. He is successful. (*Change into compound*)
 - (vi) Returning to his room after attending the feast, Tom immediately went to sleep. (*Change into simple*)
 - (vii) She will not fail. I am sure of that. (*Change into compound*)
 - (viii) That you are rich does not make you greater than others. (*Change into simple*)
6. Convert the following sentences as directed: **(8×1=8)**
- (i) Everybody acknowledges that he was a great man. (*Change into negative*)
 - (ii) No one has completed their assignment. (*Change into interrogative*)
 - (iii) Can you please close the door for me? (*Change into imperative*)
 - (iv) I would like to be as beautiful as a rose. (*Change into exclamatory*)
 - (v) A good person never forgets to help others. (*Change into affirmative*)
 - (vi) Alas! My dog has died! (*Change into assertive*)
 - (vii) He finishes his tasks on time. (*Change into interrogative*)
 - (viii) He exclaimed joyfully that they have won the match. (*Change into exclamatory*)
7. Choose the correct words or expression which mean the following: **(8×1=8)**
- (i) Publishing or copying a book or work of art without the author's permission
 - (a) trademark
 - (b) plagiarism
 - (c) creative differences
 - (ii) to undertake legal work without charge
 - (a) quid pro quo
 - (b) status quo
 - (c) pro bono
 - (iii) Favouring one's own relatives or friends by giving them jobs
 - (a) nepotism
 - (b) Neapolitan
 - (c) prejudice
 - (iv) A system of government by one person with absolute power
 - (a) theocracy
 - (b) mob rule
 - (c) autocracy
 - (v) A huge or monstrous creature
 - (a) hermaphrodite
 - (b) behemoth
 - (c) gazillion
 - (vi) Creating discord on the internet by starting quarrels or upsetting people
 - (a) spamming
 - (b) deviance
 - (c) trolling
 - (vii) A change in the form of something into a completely different one.
 - (a) Genesis
 - (b) metamorphosis
 - (c) exchange
 - (viii) A mass departure of people
 - (a) Exodus
 - (b) numbers
 - (c) immigration
8. Fill in the blanks with the correct words: **(8×1=8)**
- (i) Her life was a _____ one, with so many people depending on her.
 - (a) Mellifluous
 - (b) burdensome
 - (c) lonesome
 - (ii) As a diplomat's daughter, she was very good at _____ awkward situations.
 - (a) Arresting
 - (b) placating
 - (c) defusing

- (iii) He _____ into the fountain with all his clothes on.
(a) plunged (b) dipped (c) bolted
- (iv) His life was a _____ of painful events.
(a) Content (b) series (c) block
- (v) since giving up cigarettes, i find myself _____ sweets.
(a) craving (b) hungering (c) sustaining
- (vi) His contribution was _____, since it was only a small amount.
(a) Negotiable (b) invisible (c) negligible
- (vii) his hand writing was so terrible, it was _____.
(a) Illegal (b) illegible (c) uneligible
- (viii) Her arrogance knows no _____.
(a) Bounds (b) person (c) boundaries

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