

MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE POSTS OF
HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER (SCIENCE & MATHEMATICS)
UNDER SCHOOL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, SEPTEMBER, 2017

GENERAL ENGLISH

Time Allowed : 3 hours

Full Marks : 100

Marks for each question is indicated against it.

Attempt all questions.

SECTION - A
(20 Marks)

This Section should be answered only on the Answer Sheet provided.

1. Write an essay on **anyone** of the following topics in not *less* than 300 words:
 - Merits and demerits of cashless economy.
 - Advantages and disadvantages of social networking sites.
 - Implementation of Hindi as a compulsory subject in the schools of Mizoram.

SECTION - B
(80 Marks)

All questions carry equal mark of 1 each. Attempt all questions.

This Section should be answered only on the OMR Response Sheet provided.

Directions (Questions 1 – 16): From the four alternatives given below, choose the correct meaning of the Idioms and Phrases given in italics:

1. Men of dissolute lives *cry down* religion, because they would not be under the restraints of it.
 - (a) appreciate
 - (b) supports
 - (c) depreciate
 - (d) abandon
2. It is said that the standard of efficiency in public service has recently *fallen off*.
 - (a) diminished
 - (b) deteriorated
 - (c) emitted
 - (d) failed
3. He generally *passed by* the faults of his subordinates.
 - (a) ignored
 - (b) overlooked
 - (c) accepted
 - (d) evaded
4. In his travels he claims to have *rubbed shoulders* with people of all sorts and conditions.
 - (a) quarrel with a person
 - (b) rub someone's shoulders
 - (c) have a cause to fight
 - (d) come into close contact

5. The statement made by Pakistan about Kashmir problem was *gall and wormwood* to every Indian.
(a) a woodworm (b) beyond reason
(c) a source of anger (d) a great fuss
6. The people were *all agog* at the airport at the arrival of our victorious team.
(a) in a state of excitement (b) nervous
(c) all ready (d) a ringing bell
7. When he tells stories about himself, he is *inspired to draw the long bow*.
(a) get excited (b) exaggerate
(c) get emotional (d) underrate
8. Being an introvert, he will only *eat his heart out*.
(a) eat too much (b) suffer silently
(c) keep brooding (d) invite trouble
9. If we give them this concession, it will be the *thin end of the wedge*.
(a) the beginning of further concessions (b) a compromise on principles
(c) the least we could do for them (d) inadequate for their needs
10. After having finished the last project, I find myself *at a loose end*.
(a) free of troubles (b) happy
(c) on vacation (d) with nothing to do
11. He *faced the music* for reaching home late.
(a) faced punishment (b) faced entertainment
(c) faced reprimand (d) faced pleasure
12. The boy had a *hair-breadth* escape from a street accident.
(a) lucky (b) easy
(c) narrow (d) quick
13. He has reached the present position in his job through *elbow grease*.
(a) his hard work (b) his good connections
(c) his persistent fighting (d) flattering his superiors
14. At Christmas, even the elderly fathers *paint the town red*.
(a) paint the house red (b) indulge in rioting
(c) spill red wine (d) have a lively time
15. I did not know that he was *pulling my leg* all the time.
(a) befooling me (b) degrading me
(c) defaming me (d) complementing me
16. He is always *picking holes* in every project
(a) asking irrelevant questions on (b) suggesting improvement in
(c) finding fault with (d) creating problems in

Directions (Questions 17 – 32): Read the following passage carefully and choose the appropriate answer to each of the questions out of the four alternatives:

Organized retail has fuelled new growth categories – like liquid hand-wash, breakfast cereals and pet food in the consumer goods industry, accounting for almost 50% of their sales, said data from market search firm Nielsen. The figures showed that some of these new categories got more than 40% of their business from modern retail outlets. The data also suggests how products in these categories reach the neighbourhood kirana stores after they have established themselves in modern trade.

While grocers continue to be an important channel, for the new and evolving categories we saw an increased presence of high-end products in modern trade, example, premium products in laundry detergents, dishwashing, car air fresheners and surface care increased in availability through this format as these products are aimed at affluent consumers who are more likely to shop in supermarket/hypermarket outlets and who are willing to pay more for specialized products.

Some other categories that have grown exceptionally and now account for bulk of the sales from modern retail are frozen and ready-to-eat foods, pet food, diapers, pre- and post- wash products, hair conditioners and high-end shaving products, besides others. “With the evolution of modern trade, our growth in this channel has been healthy as it is for several other categories. Modern retail is an important part of our business” said Managing Director, Kellogg’s India.

What modern retail offers to companies experimenting with new categories is the chance to educate customers which was not the case with a general trade store. “Category creation and market development starts with modern trade but as more consumers start consuming this category, they penetrate into other channels, said President, Food & FMCG category, Future Group, the country’s largest retailer which operates stores like Big Bazaar.

But a point to note here is that modern retailers themselves push their own private brands in these very categories and can emerge as a big threat for the consumers’ goods and food companies. For instance, Big Bazaar’s private label Clean Mate is hugely popular and sells more than a brand like Harpic in its own stores. “So there is a certain amount of conflict and competition that will play out over the next few years which the FMCG companies will have to watch out for”, said KPMG’s Executive Director (retail).

In the past, there have been instances of retailers boycotting products from big FMCG players on the issue of margins, but as modern retail becomes increasingly significant for pushing new categories, experts say we could see more partnerships being forged between retailers and FMCG companies. “Market development for new categories takes time, so brand wars for relationship and consumer franchise will be fought on the modern retail platform. A new brand can compete overnight with established companies by tying up with few retailers in these categories”, President of Future Group added.

17. Which of the following is being referred to as new growth category?
- (a) liquid hand-wash (b) fresh vegetables
(c) usual groceries (d) soap cake
18. Which of the following is being referred to as modern retail outlet?
- (a) Kirana Store (b) Door-to-door selling
(c) Supermarket (d) On-line Store
19. “. . . penetrate into other Channels.” Which of the following is being referred to as Channels?
- (a) products (b) new products
(c) existing products (d) none of these

20. The new growth category products
- (a) reach first the neighbourhood Kirana shop and then the modern retail outlets
 - (b) account for less than 20% of sales in organized retail
 - (c) reach all the outlets almost at the same time
 - (d) first become popular in modern trade outlets before reaching Kirana shops
21. Which class/section of people are more likely to shop in Hypermarket outlets?
- (a) poor section
 - (b) rich consumers
 - (c) younger generation
 - (d) women
22. Which of the following categories has become very popular through sales from modern retail outlets?
- (a) cell phones
 - (b) computers
 - (c) frozen foods
 - (d) soft-drinks
23. Find words in the passage which means the same as “wealthy”.
- (a) partnerships
 - (b) premium
 - (c) popular
 - (d) affluent
24. Which of the following is not true in the context of the passage?
- (a) Clean Mate is a product of an organized retailer
 - (b) a new brand can never quickly displace an established brand
 - (c) some retailers don’t keep some products if the profit margin is not good
 - (d) in future there will be more partnerships between retailers and FMCG companies
25. Which of the following best conveys the meaning of the phrase “watch out for” as used in the passage?
- (a) demand justice
 - (b) avoid conflict
 - (c) be on the alert
 - (d) open for competition
26. Which of the following is being referred to as “certain amount of conflict”?
- (a) retailers selling their own products with products of companies
 - (b) retailers selling similar products of different consumer companies
 - (c) offering differential rate of margin for different products
 - (d) different retailers selling same category of products
27. Which of the following advantages do modern retail outlets provide for new categories of products as compared to general trade stores?
- (a) higher profit margins
 - (b) experimenting with new products
 - (c) competition with similar products
 - (d) better packing of the product
28. What will emerge as a big threat to consumers’ goods and foods companies?
- (a) increased presence of high-end products
 - (b) selling of premium products by private companies
 - (c) modern retailers selling their own private brands
 - (d) companies experimenting with new categories
29. “Modern retail is an important part of our business,” is said by
- (a) President, Food and FMCG
 - (b) Executive Director, KPMG
 - (c) Managing Director, Kellogg’s India
 - (d) President, Future Group

30. On what issue have products been boycotted from big FMCG players?
- (a) companies experimenting with new categories
 - (b) conflict and competition
 - (c) forged partnerships between retailers and FMCG companies
 - (d) on the issue of margins
31. In the context of the passage, the word “franchise” means
- (a) right to vote
 - (b) consumership
 - (c) authorization to sell a company’s goods
 - (d) penetration into other channels
32. What new growth categories accounts for almost 50% of their sales in organized retail?
- (a) Big Bazaar’s private label Clean Mate
 - (b) laundry detergents, dishwashing, car air-fresheners and surface care
 - (c) frozen and ready-to-eat foods, pet food, diapers, pre- and post- wash products, hair conditioners and high-end shaving products
 - (d) liquid hand-wash, breakfast cereals and pet food

Directions (Questions 33 – 36): Identify the correct form of Prepositions from the four alternatives given under each sentence:

33. The head-dress of the Cossacks is similar _____ that of the ancient Persians.
- (a) from
 - (b) to
 - (c) at
 - (d) with
34. We usually give our servants the old clothes we cast _____.
- (a) away
 - (b) aside
 - (c) out
 - (d) off
35. He dispensed _____ the services of his dishonest clerk.
- (a) out
 - (b) away
 - (c) with
 - (d) off
36. The auditor is entitled _____ his remuneration.
- (a) to
 - (b) with
 - (c) through
 - (d) over

Directions (Questions 37 – 40): Identify the Parts of Speech of each underlined words:

37. The porter was killed by the down train.
- (a) adjective
 - (b) adverb
 - (c) noun
 - (d) preposition
38. There is time enough and to spare.
- (a) adjective
 - (b) pronoun
 - (c) conjunction
 - (d) verb

39. We shall not see his like again.

- (a) adjective
- (b) adverb
- (c) noun
- (d) relative pronoun

40. The moral law is above the civil.

- (a) preposition
- (b) verb
- (c) noun
- (d) conjunction

Directions (Questions 41 – 44): Identify the correct Noun forms of the words given in italics:

41. The streets of some of our cities are noted for their *crookedness*

- (a) common noun
- (b) abstract noun
- (c) collective noun
- (d) proper noun

42. I often think of the happy *days* of childhood.

- (a) common noun
- (b) abstract noun
- (c) collective noun
- (d) proper noun

43. He sets a high *value* on his time.

- (a) common noun
- (b) abstract noun
- (c) collective noun
- (d) proper noun

44. What is your verdict, gentlemen of the *jury*?

- (a) common noun
- (b) abstract noun
- (c) collective noun
- (d) proper noun

Directions (Questions 45 – 48): Use the most suitable verb forms in the following sentences:

45. Throughout the day, she did nothing but _____ illness.

- (a) feigning
- (b) to feign
- (c) feign
- (d) in feigning

46. This book is designed to help you _____ for competitive examinations.

- (a) to prepare
- (b) prepare
- (c) preparing
- (d) in preparing

47. He is rich today but he seems _____ in the past.

- (a) to have been poor
- (b) to be poor
- (c) to being poor
- (d) very poor

48. Today, everyone wishes _____ money quickly.

- (a) earn
- (b) earning
- (c) to earn
- (d) for earning

Directions (Questions 49 – 53): Analyze the given sentences and choose the correct option:

49. The man who can play most heartily when he has the chance of playing, is generally the man who can work most heartily when he must work.
- (a) complex sentence containing four subordinate clauses
 - (b) complex sentence containing three subordinate clauses
 - (c) compound sentence containing four subordinate clauses
 - (d) compound sentence containing three subordinate clauses
50. He told us that he had read Milton, in a prose translation, when he was fourteen.
- (a) complex sentence containing four subordinate clauses
 - (b) complex sentence containing three subordinate clauses
 - (c) compound sentence containing three subordinate clauses
 - (d) compound sentence containing two subordinate clauses
51. She lived unknown and few could know, when Lucy ceased to be.
- (a) complex sentence containing four subordinate clauses
 - (b) complex sentence containing two subordinate clauses
 - (c) compound sentence containing four subordinate clauses
 - (d) compound sentence containing three subordinate clauses
52. Everyone who knows you, acknowledges, when he considers the case calmly, that you have been wronged.
- (a) complex sentence containing three subordinate clauses
 - (b) complex sentence containing two subordinate clauses
 - (c) compound sentence containing three subordinate clauses
 - (d) compound sentence containing two subordinate clauses
53. You must observe, my friend, that it is the custom of this country, when a lady or gentleman happens to sing, for the company to sit as mute and as motionless as statues.
- (a) complex sentence containing three subordinate clauses
 - (b) complex sentence containing four subordinate clauses
 - (c) compound sentence containing three subordinate clauses
 - (d) compound sentence containing four subordinate clauses

Directions (Questions 54 – 59): Pick the correct clause of the words underlined in the given sentences:

54. I cannot say what he is talking about.
- (a) noun clause
 - (b) adjective clause
 - (c) adverb clause
 - (d) co-ordinate clause
55. He is such a good boy as he does not help anybody.
- (a) noun clause
 - (b) adjective clause
 - (c) adverb clause
 - (d) co-ordinate clause
56. He is so weak that he cannot run.
- (a) noun clause
 - (b) adjective clause
 - (c) adverb clause
 - (d) co-ordinate clause

57. I do not know who came here last night.

- (a) noun clause
- (b) adjective clause
- (c) adverb clause
- (d) co-ordinate clause

58. As I arrived at the station, the train left.

- (a) noun clause
- (b) adjective clause
- (c) adverb clause
- (d) co-ordinate clause

59. I shall do whatever he says.

- (a) noun clause
- (b) adjective clause
- (c) adverb clause
- (d) co-ordinate clause

Directions (Questions 60 – 64): Identify the correct notion expressed by each of the following sentences by choosing one of the alternatives given:

60. Not many men would be cruel and unjust to a cripple.

- (a) imperative
- (b) assertive
- (c) affirmative
- (d) negative

61. It is useless to offer bread to a man who is dying of thirst.

- (a) assertive
- (b) negative
- (c) affirmative
- (d) exclamatory

62. How well fitted the camel is for the work he has to do!

- (a) assertive
- (b) negative
- (c) affirmative
- (d) exclamatory

63. As soon as he saw me he came up and spoke to me.

- (a) negative
- (b) affirmative
- (c) assertive
- (d) interrogative

64. You cannot gather grapes from thorns or figs from thistles.

- (a) negative
- (b) affirmative
- (c) assertive
- (d) imperative

Directions (Questions 65 – 69): Identify the correct usage of the words from the four alternatives given below:

65. There are several ways of _____ the price at which a product can be marketed.

- (a) arriving
- (b) thinking
- (c) determining
- (d) noticing

66. The brilliant students will be _____ scholarships.

- (a) honoured
- (b) awarded
- (c) rewarded
- (d) forwarded

67. My mother upset the kettle of boiling water and _____ her right hand badly.

- (a) wounded
- (b) sizzled
- (c) scorched
- (d) scalded

68. Take possession of the records immediately lest they should be _____ with.
(a) tampered (b) destroyed
(c) manhandled (d) mishandled
69. The shepherd was looking after the _____ of sheep.
(a) crew (b) gang
(c) fleet (d) flock

Directions (Questions 70 – 75): Identify the word that gives the nearest meaning of the underlined words in the following sentences:

70. It is important to be circumspect when dealing with a tricky situation.
(a) restrained (b) confident
(c) cautious (d) honest
71. Poverty in a land of plenty is anomalous.
(a) homeless (b) without a name
(c) deviating from the general rule (d) ridiculous
72. We abbreviate Mister to Mr.
(a) amplify (b) spread
(c) widen (d) shorten
73. She has a mundane dull office job.
(a) basic (b) annoying
(c) ordinary (d) sophisticated
74. The priest chanted a solemn invocation.
(a) prayer for aid (b) end of an oration
(c) command (d) invitation
75. Any contamination will vitiate the effectiveness of the medicine.
(a) impair (b) visible
(c) loose (d) indicate

Directions (Questions 76 – 80): Give one-word substitution for each of the sentences given below:

76. One who plays for pleasure.
(a) emissary (b) amateur
(c) freelance (d) mercenary
77. Government by paid officers instead of elected representatives.
(a) monarchy (b) anarchy
(c) bureaucracy (d) democracy
78. Allowing light to pass but not sight.
(a) translucent (b) transparent
(c) transfigure (d) transmigrate

79. Which cannot be wounded.

(a) inscrutable

(b) intollerable

(c) incorrigible

(d) invulnerable

80. Which cannot be consumed by fire.

(d) incandescent

(b) inflammable

(c) incombustible

(d) impregnable

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