

# MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

## TECHNICAL COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF INSPECTOR OF TAXES

UNDER TAXATION DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM  
JANUARY, 2016

### 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 given topics **(25)**
  - (a) My vision of India in 2020
  - (b) Corruption in Public Life
  - (c) Paying Taxes – Responsibility and Duty of Citizens
  - (d) The importance of public health and sanitation

2. Write a précis of the given passage **(15)**

It is an old saying that knowledge is power. Education is an instrument which imparts knowledge and, therefore, indirectly controls power. Therefore, ever since the dawn of civilisation persons in power have always tried to supervise or control education. It has been the hand-maid of the ruling class. During the Christian era the ecclesiastics controlled the institution of education and diffused among the people the gospel of the Bible and religious teachings. These gospels and teachings were no other than a philosophy for the maintenance of the existing society. It taught the poor man to be meek and to earn his bread with the sweat of his brow, while the priests and the landlords lived in luxury, fought duels for the slightest offence. During the Renaissance, education passed more from the clutches of the priests into the hands of princes. In other words it became more secular. It was also due to the growth of the nation state and powerful monarchs who united their country under their rule. Thus, under the control of the monarch, education began to devise and preach the infallibility of its master, the monarch or king. It also invented and supported fantastic theories like the Divine Right Theory and that the king can do no wrong. With the advent of the Industrial Revolution, education took a different turn and had to please the new masters. It now no longer remained the privilege of the baron class but was thrown open to the new rich merchant class of society. Yet education was still confined to the few elite. The philosophy which was in vogue during this period was that of 'Laissez Faire' restricting the function of the state to the mere keeping of law and order while, on the other hand, in practice the law of the jungle prevailed in the form of free competition and the survival of the fittest.

3. Write a letter to the Chairman of your Local Council complaining about the damaged drains and roads in your locality, making a request to have the damages repaired at the earliest possible time. **(15)**

4. Make sentences with the following idioms and phrases to show their meaning : (7×2=14)
- (a) a man of straw
  - (b) to read between the lines
  - (c) call a spade a spade
  - (d) high and mighty
  - (e) a dead end
  - (f) in the same boat
  - (g) to make both ends meet

5. Expand the idea contained in *any three* of the following : (3×5=15)
- (a) People living in glass houses should not throw stones
  - (b) The crown and glory of life is character
  - (c) Great talkers are never great doers
  - (d) Make hay while the sun shines
  - (e) Where there is a will there is a way
  - (f) Rome was not built in a day

6. Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow it :

It has been part of Nelson's prayer that the British fleet might be distinguished by humanity in the victory which he expected. Setting an example himself, he twice gave orders to cease firing upon the Redoubtable, supposing that she had struck because her great guns were silent: for as she carried no flag, there was no means of instantly ascertaining the fact. From this ship, which he had thus twice spared, he received his death. A ball fired from her mizzen-top which, in the then situation of the two vessels was not more than fifteen yards from that part of the deck where he was standing, struck the epaulette on his left shoulder about a quarter after one, just in the heat of action. He fell upon his face on the spot which was covered with his poor secretary's blood. Hardy, who was a few steps from him turning round, saw three men raising him up. "They have done for me at last, Hardy," said he. "I hope not," cried Hardy. "Yes," he replied; "my back-bone is shot through." Yet, even now not for a moment losing his presence of mind, he observed as they were carrying him down the ladder, that the tiller-ropes which had been shot away, were not yet replaced and ordered that new ones should be roped immediately. Then that he might not be seen by the crew, he took out his handkerchief and covered his face and his stars. Had he but concealed these badges of honour from the enemy, England perhaps would not have had cause to receive with sorrow the news of the battle of Trafalgar. The cockpit was crowded with wounded and dying men; over whose bodies he was with some difficulties conveyed, and laid upon a pallet in the midshipmen's berth. It was soon perceived, upon examination, that the wound was mortal. This, however, was concealed from all, except Captain Hardy, the chaplain, and the medical attendants. He himself being certain, from the sensation in his back, and the gush of blood he felt momentarily within his breast, that no human care could avail him, insisted that the surgeon should leave him and attend to those to whom he might be useful.

- (a) What is meant by 'supposing that she had struck'? (3)
- (b) How can Nelson be said to have been partly responsible for his death? (3)
- (c) What do you understand by the 'mizzen-top'? (3)
- (d) Why did Nelson insist that the surgeon should leave him and attend to others? (3)
- (e) What qualities in Nelson's character are revealed by this passage? (3)
- (f) Give a suitable title to the passage. (1)