

MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

WRITTEN EXAMINATIONS FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF STENOGRAPHER GRADE-II (CONTRACT) UNDER DP&AR (SSW), GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM. May, 2015.

GENERAL ENGLISH

Time Allowed : 3 hours

FM : 100 PM : 36

Attempt all questions.

SECTION - A **(20 Marks)**

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

1. Write an essay on *any one* of the following topics in not more than 300 words:
 - (a) Social media and its impact on society.
 - (b) Role and significance of NGO's in Mizoram.
 - (c) Crime against women in India.

SECTION - B **(80 Marks)**

All questions carry equal marks of 2 each. Attempt all questions.

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

Directions (Questions 1 – 8): Indicate the correct meaning of the given idioms and phrases:

1. Nip in the bud
 - (a) to train at a young age
 - (b) to hurt someone badly
 - (c) to deceive a friend
 - (d) to destroy at the very beginning.
2. Ploughing the sand
 - (a) to be hardworking
 - (b) useless labour
 - (c) to earn great achievements
 - (d) to plant seeds
3. His most trusted friend proved to be a snake in the grass
 - (a) a hidden enemy
 - (b) cowardly and brutal
 - (c) an unreliable and deceitful person
 - (d) low and mean
4. Chip of the old block
 - (a) a piece of sculpture
 - (b) building materials
 - (c) a superb work of art
 - (d) the son resembling the father

5. She exhibited remarkable *sang froid* during the crisis
 - (a) temper
 - (b) irritation
 - (c) composure
 - (d) anger
6. Nine days' wonder
 - (a) a place of divinity
 - (b) to be awestruck
 - (c) a short-lived glory
 - (d) a fairy-tale
7. To kiss the dust
 - (a) to be humiliated
 - (b) to humble oneself
 - (c) to surrender
 - (d) to worship someone
8. Loaves and fishes
 - (a) a square meal
 - (b) bread and butter
 - (c) paupers and beggars
 - (d) worldly benefits

Directions (Questions 9 – 14) : Read the following passage carefully and choose the best answer to each of the questions out of the four alternatives:

White cement is the basic raw material for producing cement tiles and cement paint which are used extensively in building construction. The main consumers of white cement are, therefore, cement tile and cement paint manufacturing units. These consumers, mostly in the small scale sector, are today facing a major crisis because of a significant increase in the price of white cement during a short period. The present annual licensed production capacity of white and grey cement in the country is approximately 3.5 lakh tonnes. The average demand is 2-2.5 tonnes. This means that there is idle capacity to the tune of one lakh tonnes or more. The price rise is, therefore, not a phenomenon arising out of inadequate production capacity but evidently because of artificial scarcity created by the manufacturers in their self-interest.

The main reason for the continuing spurt in cement price is its decontrol. As it is, there is stiff competition in the cement paint and tile manufacturing business. Any further price revision at this stage is bound to have a severe adverse impact on the market conditions. The Government should take adequate steps to ensure that suitable controls are brought in. Else it should allow import of cement.

9. Why is the price of cement going up?
 - (a) Because the Government is controlling the quota.
 - (b) Because of export of white cement.
 - (c) Because of extensive usage of white cement for construction.
 - (d) None of the above.
10. Which of the following statements is false according to the passage?
 - (a) White cement is a controlled product.
 - (b) Increase in price of white cement is not because of production problem.
 - (c) Price rise in white cement would upset cement tile market.
 - (d) Most cement paint manufacturers are from small scale sector.
11. What is the crisis being faced by the cement tile manufacturers as described in the passage?
 - (a) White cement is priced very low.
 - (b) White cement prices are very high.
 - (c) White cement is being exported.
 - (d) White cement is not of good quality.

12. Which of the following words has the same meaning as the word 'idle' as used in the passage?
- (a) lazy (b) clumsy
(c) large (d) excess
13. Which of the following is correct according to the passage?
- (a) White cement is not used in the manufacture of paint.
(b) White cement forms a minor part of tile manufacturing.
(c) White cement is very important for tile manufacturing.
(d) White cement is used only for making paints.
14. What is the author's suggestion to bring down prices?
- (a) Government should control the white cement market.
(b) Production capacity should be increased.
(c) Usage of white cement in other areas should be reduced.
(d) Competition among manufacturers of cement paints and tiles should be reduced.

Directions (Questions 15 – 24) : Fill in the blanks with the correct parts of speech:

15. The profits will be equally divided _____ the two partners.
- (a) among (b) by
(c) with (d) between
16. His chances are _____ than mine.
- (a) less (b) lesser
(c) few (d) fewer
17. A horse is _____ like an elephant.
- (a) not (b) never
(c) nothing (d) none
18. I had injured my knee four years ago but I have been feeling pain in it _____.
- (a) even now (b) since
(c) until now (d) ever since
19. Have you received any letter from your son _____ ?
- (a) lately (b) late
(c) of late (d) last
20. He comes _____ a good family.
- (a) out of (b) off
(c) of (d) from
21. The _____ news from the war front is very disappointing.
- (a) next (b) further
(c) latest (d) nearest
22. The tiger jumped _____ the stag.
- (a) on (b) upon
(c) at (d) with

23. Dishonesty is always detrimental _____ progress in life.
(a) on (b) in
(c) to (d) for
24. The robbers not only injured the landlord but also decamped _____ booty.
(a) off (b) to
(c) about (d) with

Directions (Questions 25 – 30): Identify the notion/concept expressed by each of the following sentences by choosing one of the alternatives given:

25. The old lady goes for a walk in the morning.
(a) progressive (b) habitual
(c) possibility (d) locative
26. Unless you pay you will be refused admission.
(a) advice (b) affirmative
(c) threat (d) prohibition
27. If I were you, I would not care for such a man.
(a) suggestion (b) possibility
(c) advice (d) order
28. May you live long!
(a) strong possibility (b) likelihood
(c) determination (d) wish
29. The manager said to his assistant, "Let the customers in."
(a) permission (b) order
(c) suggestion (d) both (b) and (c)
30. She will be waiting for me when I reach her home.
(a) future possibility (b) future progressive
(c) wish (d) possibility

Directions (Questions 31 – 36): Analyse the given sentences and choose the correct option:

31. The verdict of the Judges that he is guilty has been challenged.
(a) compound sentence (b) simple sentence
(c) complex sentence
32. He denied to have sold spurious drugs to the customers.
(a) compound sentence (b) simple sentence
(c) complex sentence
33. Morning walk is a good exercise, therefore everybody should walk.
(a) compound sentence (b) simple sentence
(c) complex sentence
34. Everyone wonders how she completed this work.
(a) compound sentence (b) simple sentence
(c) complex sentence

35. Although they were tired, they worked late into the night.
(a) compound sentence (b) simple sentence
(c) complex sentence
36. You permit me and I shall leave the room.
(a) compound sentence (b) simple sentence
(c) complex sentence

Directions (Questions 37 – 42) : Pick the correct clause of the words underlined in the given sentences:

37. Rich as he is, he is not happy.
(a) noun clause (b) principal clause
(c) adverb clause (d) co-ordinate clause
38. I do not know whom she is teaching.
(a) noun clause (b) relative clause
(c) adverb clause (d) adjective clause
39. He told me what his father told him.
(a) co-ordinate clause (b) noun clause
(c) principal clause (d) adjective clause
40. I shall go to the place where my friend lives.
(a) relative clause (b) adjective clause
(c) adverb clause (d) co-ordinate clause
41. He could not utter a single word to his son who, when he arrived, was in a dejected mood.
(a) co-ordinate clause (b) noun clause
(c) principal clause (d) adjective clause
42. Since my brother came, he has been teaching.
(a) Co-ordinate clause (b) adverb clause
(c) principal clause (d) adjective clause

Directions (Questions 43 – 50): Fill in the blanks with the correct word/phrase out of the given choices:

43. The prisoner was released on _____ for good behaviour.
(a) probation (b) bail
(c) parole (d) guarantee
44. The brilliant students will be _____ scholarships.
(a) rewarded (b) awarded
(c) forwarded (d) honoured
45. The salt spray has gradually _____ the bridge.
(a) eroded (b) spoilt
(c) demolished (d) ravaged
46. On seeing the police approach, the miscreants _____.
(a) cooled their heels (b) wore at their heels
(c) took to their heels (d) took upon their heels

47. If a speech is full of pompous words, it is _____.
- (a) verbose (b) bombastic
(c) grandiose (d) grandiloquent
48. Because of the bitter experiences of the past he _____ everywhere.
- (a) disbelieves (b) suspects foul
(c) sees a danger (d) smells a rat
49. He is very _____ on meeting foreigners and befriending them.
- (a) anxious (b) find
(c) insistent (d) keen
50. We don't know what _____ him to commit this crime.
- (a) excited (b) roused
(c) prompted (d) attracted

* * * * *