

MIZORAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

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COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION OF DIRECT RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF  
COMMITTEE OFFICER, MARCH 2023

GENERAL ENGLISH

Time : 3 hours

Full Marks : 100

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks for the given questions.*

Answer the following questions as directed.

I. Read the passage given below and answer the questions which follow. (20)

It is indeed an honour to address this conference – in itself a fresh expression of the spirit which created the United Nations – concern for the present and future welfare of humanity. It does not aim merely at securing limited agreements but at establishing peace and harmony in life: among all races and with nature. This gathering represents man's earnest endeavour to understand his own condition and to prolong his tenancy of this planet.

I have had the good fortune of growing up with a sense of kinship with nature in all its manifestations. Birds, plants, stones were companions and, sleeping under the star – strewn sky, I became familiar with the names and movements of the constellations. But my deep interest in this our 'only earth' was not for itself but as a fit home for man.

One cannot be truly human and civilized unless one looks upon not only fellowmen but all creation with the eyes of a friend. Throughout India, edicts carved on rocks and iron pillars are reminders that twenty-two centuries ago the Emperor Ashoka defined the king's duty as not merely to protect citizens and punish wrongdoers, but also to preserve animal life and forest trees. Along with the rest of mankind, we in India – in spite of Ashoka have been guilty of wanton disregard for the sources of our sustenance.

It is sad that in country after country, progress should become synonymous with the assault on nature. We who are a part of nature are dependent on her for every need speak constantly about 'exploiting' nature.

On the one hand the rich look askance at our continuing poverty; on the other they warn us against their own methods. We do not wish to impoverish the environment any further and yet we cannot for a moment forget the grim poverty of large number of people. Are not poverty and need the greatest polluters? For instance, unless we are in a position to provide employment and purchasing power for the daily necessities of the tribal people and those who live in and around jungles, we cannot prevent them from combing the forest for food and livelihood, from poaching and from despoiling the vegetation. When they themselves feel deprived, how can we urge the preservation of animals? How can we speak to those who live in villages and in slums about keeping the oceans, the rivers and the air clean when their own lives are contaminated at the source? The environment cannot be improved in conditions of poverty. Nor poverty cannot be eradicated without the use of science and technology.

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It is an over-simplification to blame all the world's problems on increasing population. Countries with but a small fraction of the world population consume the bulk of the world's production of minerals, fossil fuels and so on. The inherent conflict is not between conservation and development, but between environment and the reckless exploitation of man and earth in the name of efficacy. All the 'isms' of the modern age- even those which in theory disowns the private profit principle - assumes that man's cardinal interest is acquisition. The profit motive, the individual or collective seems to overshadow all else. This overriding concern with self and today is the basic cause of ecological crisis.

The most urgent and basic question is that of peace. Nothing is so pointless as modern warfare. Nothing destroys so instantly, so completely, as the diabolic weapons which not only kill but maim and deform the living and yet to be born. What ecological project can survive a war? Life is one and the world one, and all these questions are interlinked. The population explosion, poverty, ignorance and disease, the pollution of our surroundings, the stockpiling of nuclear weapons and biological and chemical agents of destruction are all parts of a vicious circle. Each is important and urgent, but dealing with them one by one would be wasted effort. We must concern ourselves not only with the kind of worlds we want, but also with what kind of man should inhabit it. We want thinking people, capable and spontaneous, self-directed activity, people who are interested and who are imbued with compassion and concern for others. Modern man must re-establish an unbroken link with nature and with life.

- Q1. What is the main subject/deep interest of the speaker which will be addressed to the august gathering? (3)
- Q2. What is the 'king's duty' as defined by Ashoka twenty-two centuries ago? (3)
- Q3. Elaborate on the sentence "Are not poverty and need the greatest polluters"? What do you think the speaker means? (4)
- Q4. What according to the speaker is the "Inherent Conflict". Elucidate. (4)
- Q5. What does the speaker call as "all parts of a vicious circle". Explain briefly. (3)
- Q6. What kind of people according to the speaker should inhabit the world? (3)

**II. Write a Precis of the following passage. (20)**

To write well, you have to be able to write clearly and logically, and you cannot do this unless you can think clearly and logically too. If you cannot do this yet, you should train yourself to do it by taking particular problems and following them through, point by point, to a solution, without leaving anything out and without avoiding any difficulties that you meet.

At first, you may find clear, step by step thought very difficult. You may find that your mind continually wanders. But practice will improve your ability to think clearly and logically. In order to increase your vocabulary and to improve your powers of expression, you should read widely and carefully, and keep a notebook in which to write down words and expressions that particularly strike you; for example, *sparkle*, *glitter*, *twinkle*, *blaze*, *gleam*, *butcher-blue eyes*, *relax into delicious indolence*. Use a good dictionary to help you with the exact meanings and uses of words.

Always remember that regular and frequent practice is essential if you are to learn to write well. You learn to write by writing. It is no good waiting until you have an inspiration before you write. Even with the most famous writers, inspiration is rare. Writing is 99 percent hard work and 1 percent inspiration, so the sooner you go into the habit of disciplining yourself to write, the better.

To be successful writer, you must write interestingly; but different kinds of people have different interests, and it is most unlikely that you will be able to appeal to all of them. You therefore have to know exactly what type of reader you are writing for, and exactly what kinds of things interest such a reader. Presentation is of very great importance in good writing. Your opening paragraph should arrest the reader's attention and show him what you are writing about and why. It is best to write simply and in conversational tone. Clean, plain English is the fashion these days, and an elaborate decorated style is quite out of date. Avoid jargons, officialese and hackneyed expressions. Prefer the concrete to the abstract word whenever possible, be definite, call a spade a spade and avoid euphemisms. In any case, read your work over critically after you have finished it, replacing weak, vague, inexact words by others which say just what you mean.

27 x 13 = 351  
27 x 13 = 351  
3) 351 (117)  
27

III. Each of the words given below in bold letters is followed by four choices. For each word select the appropriate choice which most nearly defines it. (10)

1. **Hypothetical**

- a) Irrefutable
- b) conditional
- c) triangular
- d) scientific

2. **Innocuous**

- a) Foolish
- b) innocent
- c) immunized
- d) spotless

3. **Laudatory**

- a) Arrogant
- b) clean
- c) boisterous
- d) praiseworthy

4. **Stifle**

- a) Conceal
- b) withhold
- c) suppress
- d) control

5. **Indigenous**

- a) Angry
- b) native
- c) smart
- d) poor

6. **Apprehend**

- a) Fear
- b) happy
- c) misgiving
- d) excitement

7. **Manifest**  
a) Patent  
c) obvious  
b) hidden  
d) secret
8. **Endorse**  
a) Support  
c) decline  
b) sanction  
d) correct
9. **Curtailment**  
a) Contraction  
c) Decrease  
b) failure  
d) withdraw
10. **Proclaim**  
a) Publish  
c) declare  
b) advertise  
d) promulgate

IV. **Make sentences with the following pair of words to bring out their difference/distinction in meaning. (10)**

- a. adept, adapt.
- b. collaborate, corroborate.
- c. artist, artiste.
- d. defer, differ.
- e. gait, gate.

V. **Choose the correct meaning of the given Idioms from the choices given. (10)**

1. **to play ducks and drakes**

- a. to play happily
- b. to waste
- c. not to the point about something
- d. to fool someone

2. **to cut a fine finger**

- a. to give a poor account of others
- b. to give a false account about oneself
- c. to give a ridiculous account of oneself
- d. to tell a false account of someone

3. to die in harness

- a. to die on duty
- b. to die by hanging oneself
- c. to die of hunger
- d. to die on a ship

4. cut and dry

- a. to prepare meat well
- b. to deceive someone
- c. something that is readily available
- d. to abandon a loved one

5. a past master

- a. a postman
- b. a historical figure
- c. a master of hypnotism
- d. someone who is skilled at a particular art or activity

VI. Fill in the blanks of each sentence with the correct word given within brackets to complete the Similes. (10)

(meek, sure, stupid, regular, dark, free, deep, cold, grave, smooth)

- a. As \_\_\_\_\_ as death.
- b. As free as air.
- c. As \_\_\_\_\_ as marble.
- d. As \_\_\_\_\_ as a lamb.
- e. As deep as a well.
- f. As stupid as a donkey.
- g. As \_\_\_\_\_ as a judge.
- h. As \_\_\_\_\_ as a clock.
- i. As smooth as silk.
- j. As deep as pitch.

VII. Write a short Essay on any one of the topics given below. (20)

- a. Mizo Food
- b. Being Indian
- c. Religion and Politics
- d. English as a medium of instruction in schools and colleges.