

# MIZORAM SUBORDINATE SERVICES SELECTION BOARD



## COMBINED COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF UPPER DIVISION CLERK APRIL - 2022

Question Booklet Series

PAPER I

**B**

**Time Allowed : 3 Hours**

**Maximum Marks : 125**

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. This paper is divided into two sections. Section A consists of two (2) essay type questions while Section B consists of eighty (75) multiple-choice type of questions.
2. Immediately after the commencement of the examination, you should check that this question booklet does not have any unprinted or missing pages or items, etc. If so, get it replaced by a complete booklet from the invigilator.
3. Please note that it is the candidate's responsibility to fill in all necessary details such as Roll Number, etc. and the Question Booklet Series A, B, C or D carefully and without any omission or discrepancy at the appropriate places in the OMR Answer Sheet. Any omission/discrepancy will render the Answer Sheet liable for rejection.
4. You have to write your answer for Section A *only* on the separate Answer Sheet provided.
5. Each of the multiple-choice type question under Section B comprises four responses (answers). You will select the response which you want to mark on the Answer Sheet.
6. You have to mark your responses for Section B *only* on the separate OMR Answer Sheet provided. ***Read instructions given in the OMR sheet carefully.***
7. All questions under Section B carry equal marks.
8. Rough work is to be done in the spaces available in the question booklet.
9. You have to submit your Answer Sheet to the invigilators at the end of the examination compulsorily and must not carry it with you outside the Examination Hall. You are permitted to take away with you the question booklet on conclusion of examination.
10. There are no negative marks for incorrect answer.



**SECTION – A**

**(50 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 350 words. (25)
  - (a) The Importance of Time Management
  - (b) Contribution of Technology in Modern Office Management
  
2. Read the following passage carefully and write a precis in about one third of its length. Suggest a suitable title. (25)

The best aid to give is intellectual aid, a gift of useful knowledge is infinitely preferable to a gift of material things. There are many reasons for this. Nothing becomes truly one's own except on the basis of some genuine effort or sacrifice. Gift of material goods can be appropriated by the recipient without effort or sacrifice; it therefore rarely becomes his own and is all too frequently and easily treated as a mere windfall. A gift of intellectual goods, a gift of knowledge, is a very different matter. Without a genuine effort of appropriation on the part of the recipient, there is no gift. To appropriate the gift and to make it one's own is the same thing, and "neither moth nor rust doth corrupt". The gift of knowledge also has far more lasting effects and is far more closely relevant to the concept of 'development'. Give man a fish, as the saying goes, and you are helping him a little bit for a very short time, teach him the act of fishing, and he can help himself all his life. Further, if you teach him to make his own fishing net, you have helped him to become not only self-supporting, but also self-reliant and independent man and businessman. This then should become the ever increasing preoccupation of aid programs to make men self-reliant and independent by the generous supply of the appropriate intellectual gifts, gifts of relevant knowledge on the methods of self-help. This approach, incidentally, has also the advantage of being relatively cheap, of making money go a long way. For a 100 pounds you may be able to equip one man with certain means of production, but for the same money you may well be able to teach a hundred men to equip themselves. Perhaps a little 'pump priming' by way of material goods will in some cases, be helpful to speed the process of development.

**SECTION – B**

**(75 marks)**

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

**Directions (Question 1-3):** *Given below are four jumbled sentences. Select the option that gives their correct order.*

1. (a) But still, they try to get them  
(b) They long for things they cannot attain  
(c) Men are like foxes  
(d) They pretend to despise them  
(A) cbda (B) cdab  
(C) cdba (D) bdac
  
2. (a) Till date, it is still spreading  
(b) The Corona virus is one of the most dangerous viruses in human history  
(c) Research is still at large to control the virus  
(d) It has claimed numerous lives all over the world  
(A) badc (B) bdca  
(C) bcda (D) bacd
  
3. (a) Jack started realizing this only towards the end  
(b) It is impossible to steer such a large project to success without planning  
(c) He had to stand by and watch helplessly  
(d) The whole scheme was destined to fail from the beginning  
(A) dabc (B) bacd  
(C) dacb (D) dbac

**Directions (Question 4-5):** *Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word.*

4. (A) Poignant (B) Possess  
(C) Pointillism (D) Poise
  
5. (A) Slue (B) Sleuth  
(C) Sleet (D) Slew

**Directions (Questions 6-10):** *Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.*

One may look at life, events, society, history, in another way . A way which might, at a stretch, be described as the Gandhian way, though it may be from times before Mahatma Gandhi came on the scene. The Gandhian reaction to all grim poverty, squalor and degradation of the human being would approximate to effort of self-change and self- improvement to a regime of living regulated by discipline from within. To change society, the individual must first change himself. In this way of looking at life and society, words too begin to mean differently. Revolution, for instance, is a term frequently used, but not always in the sense it has been in the lexicon of the militant. So also with words like peace and struggle. Even society may mean differently, being some kind of organic entity for the militant, and more or less a sum of

individuals for the Gandhian.

There is yet another way, which might for want of a better description, be called the mystic. The mystic's perspective measures these concerns that transcend political ambition and the dynamism of the reformer, whether he be militant or Gandhian. The mystic measures the terror of not knowing the remorseless march of time; he seeks to know what was before birth, what comes after death? The continuous presence of death, of the consciousness of death, sets his priorities and values, militants and Gandhians, kings and prophets must leave all that they have built; all that they have unbuilt and depart when messengers of the buffalo riding Yama come out of the shadows. Water will to water, dust to dust. Think of impermanence. Everything passes.

6. The Gandhian reaction of poverty is
  - (A) a regulated distribution of wealth
  - (B) self abnegation
  - (C) self-discipline
  - (D) a total war on poverty
  
7. According to Gandhism, the individual who wants to change society
  - (A) may change society without changing himself
  - (B) must change himself
  - (C) must reform society
  - (D) should destroy the existing society
  
8. Who, according to the passage, finds new meaning for words like revolutions, peace and struggle?
  - (A) A Gandhian who disciplines himself from within
  - (B) A mystic
  - (C) A militant
  - (D) A Gandhian who believes in non-violent revolution
  
9. The expression 'water will to water, dust to dust' means
  - (A) man will become dust and water after death
  - (B) man will one day die and become dust
  - (C) man will become water after death
  - (D) water and dust can mix well
  
10. The antonym of 'remorseless' is
  - (A) compassionate
  - (B) hard- hearted
  - (C) unfeeling
  - (D) unremitting

**Directions (Question 11-13): Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**

11. Give the benefit of the doubt
  - (A) believing without proof
  - (B) not believing without proof
  - (C) very doubtful
  - (D) inconceivable
  
12. Carrot and stick
  - (A) reward and punishment policy
  - (B) to bribe
  - (C) to describe a very thin person
  - (D) on a strict diet

13. Bad blood  
(A) unhealthy (B) bad habits of parents  
(C) ill feelings (D) unwanted

**Directions (Questions 14-16):** *Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.*

14. VIGILANT  
(A) Ignorant (B) Careless  
(C) Irresponsible (D) Innocent
15. FICTION  
(A) Novel (B) Spurious  
(C) Fantasy (D) Fact
16. DISTINCT  
(A) Similar (B) Differ  
(C) Ready (D) Extraordinary

**Directions (Questions 17-21):** *Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.*

India is a country of villages. Rural population still dominates the urban population as far as the number is considered. This is despite the fact that there is rampant migration of rural families to urban centers. Generally, the gains of being a unit of the urban population are less than the disadvantages and risks that are in-built in the urban life. Crime, riots, etc are some of the examples of such risks of urban life. The forces that generate conditions conducive to crime and riots are stronger in urban communities than in rural areas. Urban living is more anonymous living. It often releases the individual from community restraints more common in tradition-oriented societies. But more freedom from constraints and controls also provides greater freedom to deviate. And living in the more impersonalized, formally controlled urban society means that regulatory orders of conduct are often directed by distant bureaucrats. The police are strangers executing these prescriptions on an anonymous set of subjects. Minor offences in small town or village are often handled without resort to official police action. As disputable as such action may seem to be, it results in fewer recorded violations of the law compared to those in the big cities. Although perhaps causing some decision difficulties for the police in small town, formal and objective law enforcement is not always acceptable to the villagers. Urban area with mass population, greater wealth, more commercial establishments and more products of our technology also provide more frequent opportunities for theft. Victims are impersonalized, property is insured, consumer goods in more abundance are vividly displayed and are more portable. The crime rate increases despite formal moral education given in schools.

17. Choose the best title for the passage from the options given :  
(A) Lure of Urban life (B) Rural - Urban Life  
(C) Hazards of Urban Life (D) Crime and Punishment
18. The author thinks that risks and disadvantages are  
(A) more than gains in urban life (B) very high in rural life  
(C) outweigh the gains of rural life (D) surpassed by the gains of urban life

19. According to the passage the crime in small towns
- (A) is less frequently reported or dealt with officially
  - (B) is brought well under control by distant bureaucrats
  - (C) leads to an impersonalized style of living
  - (D) is often dealt with objective law enforcement
20. The passage mainly emphasizes the
- (A) comparative account of wealth in rural and urban areas
  - (B) increasing crime rate in rural areas
  - (C) need for formal moral education to be given in schools
  - (D) reasons for growing crime rate in urban centers in comparison to rural areas
21. Which of the following is a characteristic of an urban setting?
- (A) Unreported minor crimes
  - (B) Deviation from freedom
  - (C) Less forceful social control
  - (D) Minimal opportunities of crime due to better law enforcement

**Directions (Question 22-25): *Select the correct indirect form of the given sentence.***

22. She said, "How amazing is his spirit!"
- (A) She said that the spirit was amazing
  - (B) She exclaimed his spirit was amazing
  - (C) She exclaimed his spirit is amazing
  - (D) She exclaimed that his spirit was amazing
23. He said to the interviewer, "Could you please repeat the question?"
- (A) He requested the interviewer if he could please repeat the question
  - (B) He requested the interviewer to please repeat the question
  - (C) He requested the interviewer to repeat the question
  - (D) He requested the interviewer if he would repeat the question
24. "I am unwell," she said.
- (A) She said that she was unwell
  - (B) She says that I am unwell
  - (C) She told that she was unwell
  - (D) She says that she was unwell
25. He said, "If I have the key with me, I will give you the solution."
- (A) He said that if he had the key with him, he would gave him/her the solution
  - (B) He said if he could have the key with him, he would give him/her the solution
  - (C) He said that if he have had the key with him, he could have given him/her the solution
  - (D) He said that if he have had the key with him, he could have given him/ her the solution

**Directions (Questions 26-29): *Select the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If no substitution is required, select 'No improvement'.***

26. They wait for you very well in this restaurant.
- (A) wait to you
  - (B) wait at you
  - (C) wait on you
  - (D) No improvement

27. The speaker had been left the stage before the curtain came down.  
(A) had been leaving (B) had left  
(C) was left (D) No improvement
28. Without your help, I can do nothing.  
(A) Failing your help (B) With your help  
(C) Besides help from you (D) No improvement
29. The student sitting by the windows was not prepared for the exam, and neither was his classmates.  
(A) neither all (B) neither were  
(C) neither of (D) No improvement

**Directions (Questions 30-34): Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.**

At low tide he walked over the sands to the headland and round the corner to the little bay facing the open sea. It was inaccessible by boat, because seams of rock jutted out and currents swirled round them treacherously. But you could walk there if you chose one of the lowest ebb tides that receded a very long way. You could not linger on the expedition, for once the tide was on the turn, it came in rapidly. For this reason, very few people cared to explore the little bay and the cave at the back of it. But the unknown always drew this man like a magnet. He found the bay fresh and un-littered, as it was completely covered by the sea high tide. The cave looked mysteriously dark, cool and inviting, and he penetrated to the farthest corner where he discovered a wide crack, rather like a chimney. He peered up and thought he could see a patch of daylight.

30. The bay was fresh and un-littered because  
(A) the high tide had just washed the litter away  
(B) he was the first visitor there  
(C) it was not frequented by people who would pollute it  
(D) the sea water had receded
31. The bay could not be reached by boat because  
(A) it had numerous layers of rock  
(B) there were too many eddies  
(C) it was facing the open sea  
(D) there were seams of rocks and dangerous swirling current
32. While passing through the cave, the writer discovered  
(A) a cool and inviting place  
(B) a large opening  
(C) a chimney shaped rock  
(D) a big crack through which light came in
33. The bay could be visited  
(A) at any time (B) during daytime only  
(C) when there was a low tide (D) not during the rainy season



34. It was impossible to stay for a long time because
- (A) it was cold due to the water
  - (B) the turning tide was very dangerous
  - (C) seams of rock jutted out and could be dangerous
  - (D) the place was unknown

**Directions (Questions 35-39):** *Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.*

As science has brought in many comforts it has also brought in many new diseases, hitherto unknown to the human mind. A recent study of 50,000 office workers found that the most common work related illness they suffered was chronic fatigue syndrome, a feeling of perpetual exhaustion which can continue for several months, even years. Next in line were sore throats and stuffy noses. Over 40 percent of the workers suffered headaches; other symptoms were irritability, depression, insomnia, loss of appetite and in women, menstrual disturbances. There are other 'location specific' illnesses in addition to the above. Today people are entombed all day in air conditioned, box like structure with glass facade that 'shield' everyone from the harsh outside world. The bacteria flourishing in air conditioning ducts and dehumidifier grills of the place cause illnesses of types unknown earlier. For example, many modern architects use pressed wood products like particle board and fiber board for panelling and partitioning. These contain formaldehyde, a harmful chemical. It is released into the air in the form of fumes, and which, if inhaled, can cause breathlessness, sore throats, eye irritation and skin ailments.

Computers have revolutionized the office. But they have brought along their own hazards. Computer keyboards are known to cause a condition known as the carpal tunnel syndrome in which there is a severe pain in the wrist. Then, the visual display units of the computer pose the hazards of electromagnetic radiation. Gazing at the screen for extended periods causes eye strain, blurred vision and headache. An individual cabin may protect one from noise pollution, but those who work in crowded halls have to put up with the din of ringing telephones, humming exhaust fans, air conditioners and coolers and the constant murmur of voices.

35. Computers can pose the danger of
- (A) skin ailments
  - (B) radiation
  - (C) loss of appetite
  - (D) harmful bacteria
36. To shield everyone from the harsh outside world, people are \_\_\_\_\_ in air conditioned box.
- (A) trapped
  - (B) exposed
  - (C) disclosed
  - (D) revealed
37. Pick out the wrong statement.
- (A) Pressed wood products release fumes which can cause skin ailments
  - (B) Science is not only a blessing, but also a curse because it gives us wonderful products as well as illnesses
  - (C) Carpal tunnel syndrome affects the wrist
  - (D) Working in crowded halls and not individual cabins may protect one from noise pollution

38. Insomnia means  
(A) exhaustion (B) shortage of breath  
(C) inability to sleep (D) lack of exercise
39. A symptom of chronic fatigue syndrome is  
(A) sore throat (B) menstrual disturbances in women  
(C) prolonged tiredness (D) irritability

**Directions (Question 40-42):** *Combine each set of sentences by choosing the correct answer.*

40. The judge gave his decision. The court listened to it silently.  
(A) The judge gave his decision so the court listened to it silently  
(B) The judge gave his decision so that the court listened to it silently  
(C) The judge gave the decision which the court listened to silently  
(D) The judge gave the decision since the court listened to silently
41. The criminal removed all traces of his crime. He left the building.  
(A) The criminal removed all traces of his crime and left the building  
(B) Having removed all traces of his crime, the criminal leave the building  
(C) The criminal removed all traces but left the building  
(D) The criminal left the building and removed traces of his crime
42. He has died. The rumour is untrue.  
(A) He has died but the rumour is untrue  
(B) The rumour is untrue and he died  
(C) The rumour is untrue that he had died  
(D) The rumour, that he has died, is untrue

**Directions (Questions 43-45):** *Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the given word.*

43. DISCERNMENT  
(A) Discomfort (B) Disappointment  
(C) Good judgement (D) Sincerity
44. FACADE  
(A) Character (B) Light rain  
(C) Bright (D) Disguise
45. BOGUS  
(A) False (B) Tightly packed  
(C) Huge (D) Extra

**Directions (Questions 46-50):** *Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.*

I tried a smile-there was no response. I offered the customary gifts-he waved them aside. I tried the few words I knew-and with a gesture of dignity and scorn he handed me a present, a solitary egg; white and chilled it nestled in my palm. I smiled again but even I felt

that my smiles had become mechanical. There was obviously nothing for it: I would have to put on my little act, which in my opinion is worth a whole Platoon of Assam Rifles as a safety measure. I removed my dentures. There was a roar of interest and excitement from the crowd. I put them back another roar after I had conducted this humiliating performance several times, there was at least a reaction. The chief's lips began to twitch, and finally he broke into a hearty laugh. Pointing to his grey hair, he declared, 'I am an old man too' and soon he was sitting beside me very affably.

46. The chief laughed heartily when
- (A) the author offered the usual gifts
  - (B) the crowd roared with interest and excitement
  - (C) the author removed his dentures again and again
  - (D) the author received the present and smiled
47. At first the author was treated by the chief as
- (A) a person of lower status
  - (B) a person of higher status
  - (C) an old friend of the community
  - (D) a possible enemy
48. Pick out a word which shows that the chief was friendly.
- (A) affably
  - (B) pointing
  - (C) twitch
  - (D) hearty
49. The message of the passage is
- (A) Treat old and weak people with respect
  - (B) A gift is the key to make friends
  - (C) Humour brings out the best in people
  - (D) It is polite to put on a smiling face
50. The removing of dentures by the author was intended to show that
- (A) he was not frightened
  - (B) he was old and weak in some ways
  - (C) he knew a lot of tricks to amuse people
  - (D) he did not wish to be treated as a friend

**Directions (Question 51-55): Select the most appropriate verb/preposition/article/conjunction/etc. to fill in the blank.**

51. Everytime I bring \_\_\_\_\_ the topic of a pay raise, my boss pretends to be busy.
- (A) in
  - (B) on
  - (C) up
  - (D) about
52. The security lines are very long at the airport \_\_\_\_\_ you should probably leave early for your flight.
- (A) yet
  - (B) but
  - (C) and
  - (D) so

53. A good citizen \_\_\_\_\_ all his financial obligations.  
(A) performs (B) is performing  
(C) has performed (D) had performed
54. This is \_\_\_\_\_ horse that I saw at the park yesterday.  
(A) a (B) the  
(C) an (D) any
55. It came as a surprise to know that Sarah and Liana have \_\_\_\_\_.  
(A) broken away (B) broken down  
(C) broken up (D) broken out

**Directions (Question 56-59): Select the correct active/passive form of the given sentence.**

56. Every Covid19 victim has been compensated by the government.  
(A) The government has compensated every Covid19 victim  
(B) The government had compensated every Covid19 victim  
(C) The government has been compensating every Covid19 victim  
(D) The government have compensated every Covid19 victim
57. They are building a new mall near the old one.  
(A) A new mall was being built near the old one  
(B) A new mall is being built near the old one  
(C) A new mall has been built near the old one  
(D) A new mall is built near the old one
58. Have they left the room?  
(A) Have the room been left by them? (B) Has the room been left by them?  
(C) The room has been left by them (D) They had left the room
59. Let him be called in.  
(A) He is called in (B) He has been called in  
(C) He was being called in (D) Call him in

**Directions (Questions 60-64): Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.**

Concern over environmental issues is now a prominent feature of current affairs, and birds of prey illustrate very clearly some of the key problems in conservation. The relationship between the number of prey and the number of predators is one of the most crucial of these. One of the chief reasons why birds of prey have so often been persecuted is their supposed depletion of stocks of game. This ignores the fact that under natural conditions it is the number of prey that control the number of predators, and not the other way about. Thus, if two grouse moors of equal size are hunted respectively by one pair of eagles and by two pairs, it can be confidently predicted that the moor with the extra eagles also has substantially more grouse, not less. The only exception to this occurs when numbers of predators are maintained at an artificially high level by some human activity such as the disposal of garbage which provides a large supplementary food source.

60. Environmental issues are of great \_\_\_\_\_ to everyone today.  
(A) concern (B) threat  
(C) importance (D) prominence
61. Some important problems in conservation can be solved by observing  
(A) large predators (B) current affairs  
(C) garbage disposal methods (D) birds of prey
62. Law of nature is upset mostly by  
(A) birds of prey (B) nature itself  
(C) grouse moors (D) human activity
63. The natural presence of a large number of predators is usually because of  
(A) human activity (B) availability of prey  
(C) climate (D) environmental issues
64. Find one word in the passage which means *hostility/illtreatment*.  
(A) Grouse (B) Predicted  
(C) Persecuted (D) Illustrate

**Directions (Questions 65-68): *Select the most appropriate word to fill in the blank.***

65. I do not share the \_\_\_\_\_ view that people are inescapably greedy.  
(A) lenient (B) genteel  
(C) ethical (D) cynical
66. The doctor \_\_\_\_\_ his patient that she would get better soon.  
(A) ensured (B) assumed  
(C) assured (D) insured
67. The driver tried to \_\_\_\_\_ the accident by bringing the car to a sudden halt.  
(A) avert (B) averse  
(C) clutter (D) concur
68. \_\_\_\_\_ pollution control measures are expensive, many industries hesitate to adopt them.  
(A) However (B) Because  
(C) Although (D) Despite

**Directions (Question 69-72): *In the given sentences identify the segment which contains the grammatical error.***

69. Every Friday, each of the girl takes her father to see the newest action movie.  
(A) Every Friday (B) each of the girl  
(C) takes her father (D) the newest action movie
70. He opens the box yesterday, because he had to do it.  
(A) He opens (B) the box yesterday  
(C) he had (D) to do it

71. The Vice Chancellor of the University urged to the agitating students to shun violence and maintain peace on the campus.  
(A) University urged to (B) the agitating students to shun violence  
(C) and maintain peace on the campus (D) No error
72. Business is traditionally the most risky of all careers because it requires the person to staked all his hopes on the profession.  
(A) Business is traditionally  
(B) the most risky of all careers  
(C) because it requires the person to staked  
(D) all his hopes on the profession

**Directions (Questions 73-75): Select the word which means the same as the group of words given.**

73. A situation in which no progress is possible  
(A) Overt (B) Incurable  
(C) Radical (D) Impasse
74. To argue  
(A) Depreciate (B) Alterative  
(C) Altercate (D) Disparage
75. The state of being renewed  
(A) Repatriate (B) Reparation  
(C) Filiation (D) Repace