

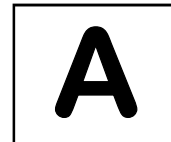
MIZORAM SUBORDINATE SERVICES SELECTION BOARD



COMBINED COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF UPPER DIVISION CLERK AUGUST - 2023

Question Booklet Series

PAPER I



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 seventy five (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. In case you feel that there is more than one correct response, mark the response which you consider the best. In any case, choose *ONLY ONE* response for each item.
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) Importance of maintaining healthy lifestyle
 - (b) Promoting tourism in Mizoram

2. Read the following passage carefully and write a precis in about one third of its length. Suggest a suitable title. (25)

The sun is really one of the countless stars in the sky, or, to put it differently, the stars really are suns, most of them at least as big as our sun. Our sun is in fact a rather unimportant member of a huge system of stars, or galaxy, consisting of at least a hundred thousand million stars. We can see part of this galaxy stretching across the sky as a pale white band of stars called the Milky Way, or the Heavenly Ganga. The galaxy, we are told, is shaped somewhat like a biscuit thickened in the middle and rather thin towards the edges. We do not see it that way because we happen to be looking from inside the immense biscuit. It is turning round on its axis like a vast wheel. Our sun itself moves around in the galaxy in a vast orbit at the rate of some 165 miles per second, and takes 250 million years to complete one revolution. We have said that our galaxy contains at least a hundred thousand million stars. Perhaps there are twice as many. You may therefore think that the galaxy is closely packed with stars; indeed they seem to crowd thickly together in the Milky Way. Nevertheless the fact is that the galaxy is mostly empty. Think of the solar system once again as a one-mile town with the sun in the centre as a one foot-ball. Beyond the border of the town there would be emptiness, as far as we know, for miles around; the nearest star would be about 3,400 miles away. Beyond that there would be empty space again for hundreds of miles, and then another star. And so on, up to about a hundred million stars.

SECTION – B

(75 marks)

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

Directions (Question 1-2): Select the *INCORRECTLY* spelt word.

1. (A) Misspell (B) Minicule
(C) Miniature (D) Medieval
2. (A) Perceive (B) Persiverance
(C) Presence (D) Precede

Directions (Question 3-6): In the given sentences identify the segment which contains the grammatical error.

3. There is no denying that I as well as you are at fault.
(A) There is (B) no denying that
(C) I as well as you (D) are at fault
4. I am sleeping when you and your daughter visited my mother last week.
(A) I am sleeping when (B) you and your daughter
(C) visited my mother (D) last week
5. How does one's personality effect success on the job?
(A) How does (B) one's personality
(C) effect success (D) on the job?
6. Every book is better in its new edition by the editor.
(A) Every book (B) is better
(C) in its (D) new edition by the editor

Directions (Questions 7-11): Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Dolphins are regarded as the friendliest creatures in the sea and stories of them helping drowning sailors have been common since Roman times. The more we learn about dolphins, the more we realize that their society is more complex than people previously imagined. They look after other dolphins when they are ill, care for pregnant mothers and protect the weakest in the community, as we do. Some scientists have suggested that dolphins have a language but it is much more probable that they communicate with each other without needing words. Could any of these mammals be more intelligent than man? Certainly the most common argument in favour of man's superiority over them that we can kill them more easily than they can kill us is the least satisfactory. On the contrary, the more we discover about these remarkable creatures, the less we appear superior when we destroy them.

7. One can infer from the passage that
- (A) dolphins are quite abundant in some areas of the world
 - (B) dolphins have skills that no other living creatures have, such as the ability to think
 - (C) it is not usual for dolphins to communicate with each other
 - (D) dolphins have some social traits that are similar to those of humans
8. One can learn from the passage that
- (A) humans are far superior just as we thought
 - (B) humans are made to control other creatures
 - (C) humans are allowed to kill other creatures as we like
 - (D) humans are not as superior as we thought
9. The fact that the writer of the passage thinks that we can kill dolphins more easily than they can kill us
- (A) means that they are better adapted to their environment than we are
 - (B) shows that dolphins have a very sophisticated form of communication
 - (C) proves that dolphins are not the most intelligent species at sea
 - (D) does not mean that we are superior to them
10. It is clear from the passage that dolphins
- (A) don't want to be with us as much as we want to be with them
 - (B) are proven to be less intelligent than once thought
 - (C) have a reputation for being friendly to humans
 - (D) are the most powerful creatures that live in the oceans
11. According to the passage, the more we learn about the dolphins
- (A) the more we realise about their elaborate society
 - (B) the more we realise about their usefulness
 - (C) the more we realise about their superiority
 - (D) the more we realise about their language

Directions (Question 12-16): *Select the most appropriate parts of speech to fill in the blank.*

12. I saw _____ one-eyed man.
- (A) a
 - (B) an
 - (C) at
 - (D) by
13. Prices are _____ these days.
- (A) souring
 - (B) storing
 - (C) soaring
 - (D) sourcing
14. Look! Pari along with her friends _____ in the park.
- (A) are
 - (B) is
 - (C) were
 - (D) was
15. You must take rest _____ you are unwell.
- (A) yet
 - (B) so
 - (C) hence
 - (D) for

16. She takes _____ care of her health.
- (A) great (B) much
(C) some (D) many

Directions (Question 17-19): *Combine each set of sentences by choosing the correct answer.*

17. I saw my friend. I went up to him. I hugged him fondly.
- (A) Having seen my friend, I went up to him to hug him fondly
(B) Having seen my friend, I go to him and hug him fondly
(C) I saw my friend and went to him, hugged him fondly
(D) As I saw my friend, I have gone up to him to hug him fondly
18. I will help you. You must be hardworking.
- (A) Because of hard work, I will help you
(B) I will help you by dint of hard work
(C) I will help you by reason of hard work
(D) I will help you if you are hardworking
19. Sanga has done it. Rama has done it. It must be one of them.
- (A) Not only Sanga but also Rama has done it
(B) Either Sanga or Rama has done it
(C) Neither Sanga nor Rama has done it
(D) Both Sanga and Rama has done it

Directions (Questions 20-24): *Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.*

Once upon a time most of the hill slopes of India were covered with large forests full of numerous kinds of trees. As the population grew, trees were cut down for fuel or for timber. That is how the wonderful forests described in our ancient poems came to be destroyed. In fact, in many parts of India there are not enough trees to supply firewood, and so people are forced to burn cow-dung, which ought to be saved for agricultural purposes. The government wants large number of trees to be planted all over the country in order to make good the loss. So, some years ago, the government started an annual festival called Vanamahotsava or the Forest Festival. This is an important festival in which we should all take part. Trees are our country's wealth; we must consider it our sacred duty to protect them and to look after them well.

20. Many years ago, the hills of India were adorned with
- (A) large forest with particular kind of trees
(B) diverse fauna
(C) flora, with a great deal of variety
(D) sparsely scattered green trees
21. 'Make good the loss' means
- (A) to make good fortune with something you found
(B) to not cry over something we've lost
(C) to replace what has been lost
(D) to accept the damage done

22. We should all take part in the Forest Festival because
(A) the government started the festival
(B) it is an annual festival to promote India's wealth
(C) it is our duty to increase our country's wealth
(D) it would create awareness for tree plantation drive
23. The wonderful forest described in our ancient poems came to be destroyed because of
(A) the increase in nuclear families
(B) depopulation in India
(C) the increment of inhabitants
(D) the rise of conjugal families among the inhabitants
24. The use of cow-dung as fuel should be stopped because
(A) it should be set aside for manure
(B) it is very unhealthy
(C) it is harmful for plants
(D) the smoke produced destroys agricultural fields

Directions (Questions 25-29): *Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.*

Erosion of America's farmland by wind and water has been a problem since settlers first put the prairies and grasslands under the plough in the nineteenth century. By the 1930s, more than 282 million acres of farmland were damaged by erosion. After 40 years of conservation efforts, soil erosion has accelerated due to new demands placed on the land by heavy crop production. In the years ahead, soil erosion and the pollution problems it causes are likely to replace petroleum scarcity as the nation's most critical natural resource problem.

25. As we understand from the passage, today, soil erosion in America
(A) causes humans to place new demands on the land
(B) is worse than it was in the nineteenth century
(C) happens so slowly that it is hardly noticed
(D) is the most critical problem that the nation faces
26. The antonym of 'scarcity' is
(A) abundance (B) lack
(C) rarity (D) paucity
27. Word from the passage which means enormous stretches of flat grassland with moderate temperatures, moderate rainfall and few trees.
(A) grasslands (B) prairies
(C) farmland (D) conservation
28. It is pointed out in the passage that in America
(A) petroleum is causing heavy soil erosion and pollution problems
(B) heavy crop production is necessary to meet the demands and to prevent a disaster
(C) soil erosion has been hastened due to the overuse of farming lands
(D) water is undoubtedly the largest cause of erosion

29. The author points out in the passage that erosion in America
- (A) has damaged 282 million acres ever since settlers first put the prairies and grasslands under the plough
 - (B) has been so severe that it has forced people to abandon their settlements
 - (C) occurs only in areas with no vegetation
 - (D) can become a more serious problem in the future

Directions (Question 30-32): *Given below are four jumbled sentences. Select the option that gives their correct order.*

30. (a) 'Inkawibah' is an old Mizo game
(b) This game involves a lot of skills
(c) So, one has to be very cautious and skilful
(d) It is quite popular among girls
- (A) adbc (B) bcda
(C) bdac (D) adcb
31. (a) They appeared to be posing for 'selfies'
(b) An explorer had left it sitting on the ice while he visited a rookery
(c) In Antarctica, two penguins found a video camera
(d) The penguins curiously stared down at the camera
- (A) cdba (B) bacd
(C) cbda (D) cdab
32. (a) She was a tall woman and she carried a large purse
(b) Suddenly a thief ran up behind her and tried to snatch her purse
(c) It was a sunny day and she decided to take a walk
(d) It had a long strap, and she carried it slung across her shoulder
- (A) bacd (B) cbda
(C) cadb (D) acbd

Directions (Questions 33-35): *Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the given word.*

33. FEUD
- (A) Enduring (B) Foe
(C) Harmony (D) Strife
34. ELOQUENCE
- (A) Fluency (B) Halting
(C) Stammering (D) Lecture
35. ARROGANT
- (A) Biased (B) Partial
(C) Servile (D) Haughty

Directions (Questions 36-40): *Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.*

Two women stood talking in the sunlit streets of old Flushing three hundred years ago. They were talking, as their descendants do today, of their children, of their husbands' wages, of

the price of food. Suddenly one of them broke off and, pointing to a little boy cried, "Ah, there goes Michael! I can hardly keep my hands off that little rascal!"

"Why?" asked the other turning to look at a lively little boy who walked past with his hands in his pockets.

"I never saw such a spoiled, proud and useless rascal of a boy in my life!" cried the first. "He is never happy unless he's making mischief or doing something to call attention to himself. He must always be the first. He'll come to a bad end, and hope I shall live to see it."

The second woman thought for a while. She said, "Ah, well, daring sometimes turns to courage. He's a bold little rascal; he'll never make a poor, respectable citizen like his father; he'll go far. but whether on the right road or the wrong one, who can tell yet?"

Meanwhile the boy had passed on into the market-place. He was idling about in the sunshine on the look-out for mischief. All at once he saw it calling to him. Workmen had been slating the church spire, and their ladders stretched invitingly from earth to steeple.

All children like climbing up into high places to see if the world looks different from an apple tree or a house-top; over and above this love of climbing Michael had, as the woman said, an urge to do things that had never been done before. And he gazed at the spire, an idea leaped into his mind – he would be the first person in Flushing to stand on the golden ball beneath the weather-vane.

36. The second woman is more _____ towards Michael than the first woman.
(A) sympathetic (B) unfeeling
(C) insensitive (D) thoughtless
37. The first woman wishes to see Michael
(A) to be more rooted to the ground (B) to turn over a new leaf
(C) goes down like a lead balloon (D) having a ball in the end
38. The similarity that women of all decades share is
(A) they all gossip about their neighbours
(B) they all have a dislike for mischievous boys
(C) they all share stories of their past and work
(D) they all talk about their family affairs
39. At the marketplace, Michael's attention is attracted by
(A) nothing (B) ladders
(C) apple tree (D) workmen
40. The passage shows that Michael is
(A) mischievous but affectionate (B) mischievous but inquisitive
(C) mischievous but intelligent (D) mischievous but conscientious

Directions (Question 41-43): Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

41. When it rains it pours
(A) misfortunes occur all at once (B) fortunes occur all at once
(C) easy tasks to be done all at once (D) many tasks to be done all at once

42. When pigs fly
(A) a very rare occurrence (B) an impossible task or event
(C) miss an opportunity or chance (D) a burst of energy
43. The lion's share
(A) the bravest (B) the most aggressive
(C) the majority (D) the most accurate

Directions (Questions 44-46): *Select the word which means the same as the group of words given.*

44. The exact opposite
(A) Antithesis (B) Aesthete
(C) Prosthesis (D) Analogous
45. The ranting of a person
(A) Countenance (B) Applaud
(C) Whine (D) Endure
46. A man of evil reputation
(A) Esteemed (B) Anonymous
(C) Ethical (D) Notorious

Directions (Question 47-50): *Select the correct active/passive form of the given sentence.*

47. Let not anyone be hated.
(A) Let no one be hated (B) Do not hate anyone
(C) You must not hate nobody (D) No one should be hated by you
48. She knits a beautiful scarf.
(A) A beautiful scarf was being knitted by her
(B) A beautiful scarf is being knitted by her
(C) A beautiful scarf had been knitted by her
(D) A beautiful scarf is knitted by her
49. Who was being written a letter to by you?
(A) To whom are you writing a letter?
(B) To whom were you writing a letter?
(C) To whom have you been writing a letter?
(D) To whom had you written a letter?
50. Sugar tastes sweet.
(A) Sugar is sweet when it is tasted
(B) Sugar is sweet when it is being tasted
(C) Sugar is sweet when it has been tasted
(D) Sugar is sweet when it was being tasted

Directions (Questions 51-55): *Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.*

At the end of the 15th Century, the first European – The Portuguese – visited India. The Portuguese were the first to come and the last to leave India. Even when India won her independence in 1947, the Portuguese were in control of Goa, Daman and Diu. In 1961, these enclaves were taken over by India using armed force. Even today, the culture, buildings, language and cuisine in these regions bear testimony to the 450 years of Portuguese rule in India.

The French were the last of the Europeans to set up trade in India. The French East India Company was established in 1664, for the purpose of trade. However, this intention changed, bringing them into conflict with the British. The series of Carnatic Wars between 1744 and 1763 ended with decisive victories for the British, leading to the establishment of the British Raj.

51. One can understand from the passage that
- (A) the British established the British Raj to take control over Goa, Daman and Diu
 - (B) the French established the French East India Company before the arrival of the Portuguese
 - (C) the Carnatic Wars marked the decline of the French in India
 - (D) the Carnatic Wars marked the indestructible cord between the French and the British
52. In its initial stage, the French East India Company was established for
- (A) commercial purposes
 - (B) acquisition of territories
 - (C) both for commercial and expansion of territories
 - (D) settling the French conflict with the British
53. The Portuguese left India
- (A) at the end of the 15th Century
 - (B) when India won her Independence
 - (C) after India overtook Goa, Daman and Diu
 - (D) when the French East India Company was established
54. The passage states that the people of Goa, Daman and Diu
- (A) still have hard feelings towards the Portuguese
 - (B) still embrace the Portuguese influence
 - (C) gave up the Portuguese heritage
 - (D) are very much against the Indian culture
55. One word that means the same as ‘enclaves’ is
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|---------------|-----------------|
| (A) refuge | (B) yield |
| (C) domiciles | (D) territories |

Directions (Questions 56-59): *Select the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If no substitution is required, select ‘No improvement’.*

56. By virtue of his pride, he lost his best friends.
- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| (A) By reason of | (B) By dint of |
| (C) By means of | (D) No improvement |

57. She often appeals to her beauty and charms.
(A) attends to (B) boasts of
(C) clings to (D) No improvement
58. He tried to pass off the fake watch as genuine Rolex.
(A) to pass away (B) to pass with
(C) to pass for (D) No improvement
59. I have laid out a handsome amount for my old age.
(A) lay by (B) laid waste
(C) laid aside (D) No improvement

Directions (Questions 60-62): Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.

60. SENSITIVE
(A) Gentle (B) Callous
(C) Humane (D) Accurate
61. CONTRARY
(A) Contradictory (B) Similar
(C) Unruly (D) Clashing
62. GENERAL
(A) Particular (B) Regular
(C) Customary (D) Generic

Directions (Questions 63-66): Select the most appropriate word to fill in the blank.

63. The company was declared _____ as it was unable to pay its debts.
(A) insatiable (B) ineffable
(C) insolvent (D) incorrigible
64. That policeman is as _____ as a cucumber.
(A) cold (B) icy
(C) cool (D) frozen
65. The _____ tipped the police about the plan of the terrorists.
(A) informant (B) informal
(C) informed (D) informer
66. She slams the kitchen door so hard I hear the dishes _____.
(A) rattle (B) clang
(C) crackle (D) rustle

Directions (Question 67-70): Select the correct indirect form of the given sentence.

67. I say, "I am very tired."
(A) I said that I am very tired (B) I say that I was very tired
(C) I said that I were very tired (D) I say that I am very tired

68. The worker said, "The machine arrived yesterday."
(A) The worker said that the machine had arrived the previous day
(B) The worker said that the machine was arriving the previous day
(C) The worker said that the machine arrived the previous day
(D) The worker said that the machine had been arriving the previous day
69. The servant said to his master, "Pardon me this time."
(A) The servant lamented to his master to pardon him this time
(B) The servant advised his master to pardon him that time
(C) The servant requested his master to pardon him that time
(D) The servant proposed to his master to pardon him this time
70. The crow said to the fox, "Are the grapes sour?"
(A) The crow said to the fox if the grapes are sour
(B) The crow asked if the grapes are sour
(C) The crow asked the fox if the grapes were sour
(D) The crow asked the fox if the grapes was sour

Directions (Questions 71-75): *Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.*

Opera refers to a dramatic art form, originating in Europe, in which the emotional content is conveyed to the audience as much through music, both vocal and instrumental, as it is through the lyrics. By contrast, in musical theatre an actor's dramatic performance is primary, and the music plays a lesser role. The drama in opera is presented using the primary elements of theatre such as scenery, costumes, and acting. However, the words of the opera, or libretto, are sung rather than spoken. The singers are accompanied by a musical ensemble ranging from a small instrumental ensemble to a full symphonic orchestra.

71. It is pointed out in the passage that opera
(A) has developed under the influence of musical theatre
(B) is a drama sung with the accompaniment of an orchestra
(C) is not a high-budget production
(D) is the most complex of all the performing arts
72. It is stated in the passage that
(A) acting and costumes are secondary to music in musical theatre
(B) many people find musical theatre more captivating than opera
(C) music in musical theatre is not as important as it is in opera
(D) an opera requires a huge orchestra as well as a large choir
73. We can understand from the passage that
(A) people are captivated more by opera than musical theatre
(B) drama in opera is more important than the music
(C) orchestras in operas can vary considerably in size
(D) musical theatre relies above all on music

74. The word used in the passage which means a group of actors, musicians or dancers who performed together is
- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| (A) audience | (B) accompanied |
| (C) ensemble | (D) symphonic |
75. The antonym of the word 'contrast' is
- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| (A) resemble | (B) reserve |
| (C) foil | (D) variance |