

MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

GENERAL COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF JR. GRADE OF MIZORAM FOREST SERVICE (ASST. CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS) UNDER ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM, 2023

GENERAL ENGLISH

Time Allowed : 3 hours

Full Marks : 100

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

1. Write an essay on any one of the following topics in about 500 words. (25)
 - Ban on plastic: Environment vs. Economy
 - Organic Farming in India
 - Impact of climate change on global economic stability and development.

2. Make a précis of the following : (15)

The assault on the purity of the environment is the price that we pay for many of the benefits of modern technology. For the advantages of automotive transportation we pay a price in smog-induced diseases, for the powerful effects of new insecticides, we pay a price in dwindling wildlife and disturbances in the relation of living things and their surroundings; for nuclear power, we risk the biological hazards of radiation. By increasing agricultural production with fertilizers, we increase water pollution.

The highly developed nations of the world are not only the immediate beneficiaries of the good that technology can do; they are also the first victims of the environmental diseases that technology breeds. In the past, the environmental effects which accompanied technological progress were restricted to a small place and a relatively short time. The new hazards are neither local nor brief. Modern air pollution covers vast areas of continents. Radioactive fallout from nuclear explosions is worldwide. Radioactive pollutants now on the Earth's surface will be found there for generations and in the case of carbon 14 for thousands of years.

3. You are a resident of Tuikhuahtlang, Aizawl. Write a letter to the Editor, Aizawl Times in about 150-200 words on the misuse and poor maintenance of the public park in your city. You may suggest measures for improvement and renovation. (15)

4. Choose the correct meaning of the idioms which are underlined in the sentence: (10×1=10)
 - (a) The question was so difficult that I could not make head or tail of it.
 - (i) remember the beginning or end
 - (ii) understand it
 - (iii) face it
 - (iv) tolerate it
 - (b) The Manipur issue is a burning question of the day.
 - (i) dying out
 - (ii) hurtful matter
 - (iii) widely debated issue
 - (iv) irrelevant issue
 - (c) The politician was able to sway the mob with his gift of the gab.
 - (i) fluency of speech
 - (ii) abundance of promises
 - (iii) political vision
 - (iv) skill and bravery

- (d) The authorities took him to task for his negligence.
- (i) forced him to resign (ii) suspended his assignment
(iii) reprimanded him (iv) gave him additional work
- (e) When the Police came, the miscreants took to their heels.
- (i) were taken by surprise (ii) took to flight
(iii) took off their shoes (iv) surrendered unconditionally
- (f) I always get cold feet in front of an audience.
- (i) run for life (ii) become rude
(iii) be afraid (iv) confident and strong
- (g) Today will be a red-letter day for all Indians.
- (i) a colorful day (ii) fatal day
(iii) happy and significant day (iv) a violent day
- (h) The students accused the authority of sitting on the fence.
- (i) confused (ii) observant
(iii) hesitating between two options (iv) sitting idly
- (i) The convict made a clean breast of his involvement in the crime.
- (i) Spoke honestly (ii) Took off his shirt
(iii) Denied the charge (iv) Refused to confess
- (j) We should always guard against our green-eyed friends.
- (i) rich (ii) jealous
(iii) good-looking (iv) curious

5. Fill in the blanks with suitable prepositions:

(5×1=5)

- (a) He will abide _____ my decision positively.
(b) You have no authority _____ instructing me as such.
(c) They fitted up their house _____ all necessary furniture.
(d) You must not quarrel _____ the ancestral property.
(e) I don't like to jest _____ a lunatic person.

6. Rewrite the following sentences as directed within the bracket.

(10×1=10)

- (a) justice as well as mercy allows it (*punctuate the sentence*)
(b) he is slightly lame/ as though/ he walks (*rearrange to make meaningful sentence*)
(c) He has not yet recovered _____ his illness (*supply suitable preposition*)
(d) They while away their evenings with books and games. (*Identify the part of speech of the underlined word*)
(e) Every day last week my aunt _____ a plate. (*Insert appropriate form of the verb "break"*)
(f) "Call the first witness," said the judge. (*Change into indirect speech*)
(g) Why did your brother write such a letter? (*Change into passive voice*)
(h) He was refused admittance by the guard (*Change into active voice*)
(i) We were sad when he moved away (*Change into negative*)
(j) Mawii exclaimed that she was very clever (*Change into Direct speech*)

7. Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

All of us are now aware of the threats facing the earth of the degradation that man is causing to his own environment. We know that the global temperature is rising, that the ozone layer is being disrupted, that the groundwater level is going down alarmingly. We also know that our air, water and soil are being increasingly polluted, that our forests are being steadily depleted. Our Earth is becoming more and more uninhabitable.

Why is this so? The most important reason is that our concept of development is unscientific and illogical. Our development has made life more complicated and difficult for us.

In fact, it is over-exploitation of our natural wealth that has resulted in the many unsolvable problems we now have, problems of pollution of air, water and soil.

The natural resources of our Earth are being exploited by the developed nations to such an extent that it becomes almost impossible for the rest of the world to meet even their basic needs. The developed nations do this for the sake of change and novelty and this craze has given rise to 'a throw away culture'. They throw away not only cups and plates, paper and clothes and foodstuffs, furniture and cars, but even their homes and old people. This attitude of the developed countries has wrought havoc not only to them, but to the poor, backward nations too; for this is the model of development the developed countries place before them.

Development does not mean piling up luxuries; development does not mean having more and more automobiles on your roads; development does not mean making air, water and soil more polluted; development does not mean more and bigger buildings. The mad rush to catch up with the artificial speed of high competition is not development.

Let us take the example of a small state. Kerala was one of the most beautiful places on the earth, all lush green with the Sahya Mountains on the East and the Arabian Sea on the West. Forty-four rivers and an intricate network of lakes and streams and backwaters and two regular rainy seasons kept this land cool and prosperous. Here we had our own system of agriculture, our own seed and manuring and our own watering methods.

Then came development. The groves were cut down and cash crop was sown. The ponds were filled up because it was considered wastage of land. The people were told that their local seeds were no good and were given high-yielding varieties. Cow dung and leaf manure were also considered primitive. At subsidized rates, chemical fertilizers and pesticides were given. The chemical manure was considered excellent and pesticides a boon. It took time for people to understand that the chemical fertilizers are not wonderful and that the pesticides do not know when to stop killing. Even friendly moths, the beneficial bacteria, the earthworm, field spiders and the grasshoppers were wiped out. The soil and water and the network of streams and canals have become polluted.

Likewise, in the name of development we have cleared most of our precious lands. Felling and encroachment, the so-called developmental activities and big dams have almost wiped them out. We have at present not more than 5% good forest in Kerala.

Questions :

- (a) What is the greatest danger which the Earth is facing now? (4)
- (b) What does the author mean by 'throw away culture'? (4)
- (c) What is the real meaning of the term 'development' as explained in the passage? (3)
- (d) How did the so-called development affect the people of Kerala? (3)
- (e) What caused deforestation in Kerala? (3)
- (f) Find words in the passage which are opposite in meaning to the following words: (2)
 - (i) artificial
 - (ii) deterioration
- (g) Find a word in the passage which is similar in meaning to the word disturbed. (1)