

MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
TECHNICAL COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF
ASSISTANT SOIL CONSERVATION ENGINEER (ASCE)
UNDER LAND RESOURCES, SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM. FEBRUARY, 2021

GENERAL ENGLISH PAPER - I

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: (25)
 - Conservation of land resources
 - My vision of post-Covid 19 India
 - Rights and Responsibilities of Citizens

2. Write a précis of the given passage: (15)

There are a number of ‘wealths’ other than the material wealth which relates to money and physical assets. But there is another important wealth which is not generally acknowledged and that is the inner wealth of our mind, our consciousness. This mind is like a wish-fulfilling jewel. If you know how to utilise this mind, it can produce the most beneficial effects. The best way to utilise and develop this mind is to absorb knowledge and the most important kind of knowledge is the one that makes us a kind person, a decent person, a person worthy of respect. The qualities which make an individual kind, decent and respectable are qualities such as patience, generosity and kindness. The good news is that we do not have to adopt or create these qualities, since they are already potentially there in all of us. In this way the wealth lies latent within each and every one of us. So, all we need to do is give ourselves, everyday, a bit of a reason to generate these qualities, bit by bit. If we do this, it will not make society perfect, but it will enable us to appreciate whatever circumstances we might face. As such, we have to be grateful for obstacles because without them we never learn. It is thanks to difficulties and challenges that we can come up with solutions, some of which will work and some not. But even if they don’t work, it doesn’t mean we should give up. It only means we should try again.

3. Draft an Office Order granting earned leave to Shri YZ. 15

4. Fill in the blanks with suitable idioms and phrases given in the box:

(14×1=14)

give me a hand	as blind as a bat	budge an inch
like a log	a small fortune	all ears
green with envy	flash in the pan	better days
leaps and bounds	salt of the earth	go back a long way
our paths cross	second to none	step by step
a basket case	on edge	wet blanket

- (a) She has been _____ all day.
- (b) She is not willing to change; she refuses to _____.
- (c) He is making progress by _____.
- (d) Goodbye. I hope _____ again soon.
- (e) I slept _____ last night. It was quiet and comfortable.
- (f) _____ with this big box, will you?
- (g) Tell me the gossip. I'm _____.
- (h) I was _____ when she got the job.
- (i) He and I _____.
- (j) You are _____ without your glasses.
- (k) His new house cost _____.
- (l) Changes need to be introduced _____, not all at once.
- (m) This camera has seen _____.
- (n) He never _____ at home; he is lazy.

5. Expand the idea contained in the following passages:

(3×5=15)

- (a) Contentment is more than a kingdom
- (b) All great achievements require time
- (c) Turn your wounds into wisdom

6. Read the following passage and answer the questions given thereafter:

In recent times, formal mentoring programmes are slowly gaining ground in Indian corporate circles. Mentoring in corporate parlance is a relationship where in an older senior employee selects a young talented employee, nurtures and develops his / her talents and gives a boost to his/her career and helps him/her grow in the organisation. A mentor shares his experience, knowledge and wisdom to help his protege succeed. Though 'guru - shishya parampara' or mentoring has been there for ages in India in every sphere, in the corporate field it has always been adhoc and informal. Only a lucky few shared a mentoring relationship with senior executives who helped them learn the ropes to move quickly through the corporate hierarchy.

With growing emphasis on corporate learning and grooming of internal talent, formal mentoring is gaining currency in the corporate world. The concept of mentoring is changing fast and companies are implementing new versions of it to suit the needs of employees. There is a shift away from one - way mentor to protege instruction to a pressure free, two - way mutually beneficial relationship.

Many of them are resorting to group mentoring methods instead of traditional one - on - one mentoring because traditional mentor - “mentee” relationships lack the necessary structure and focus are costly and cannot be provided to every employee. Also it requires a large pool of talented mentors. In a group setting a group is formed consisting of senior executives and junior employees who meet at regular intervals. The senior executive who does the role of mentors help the employees set development goals and build competencies to reach these goals. The participants meet at least once in a month around a conference table so that all of them feel they are on equal footing. The essential requirements for the group mentoring to work are clear goals and high commitment on the part of both mentors and mentees.

(Excerpt from a write - up by N. Purnima Srikrishna in ‘Opportunities’, The Hindu, Wednesday, March 12, 2008).

- (a) Give the passage an appropriate title. (2)
- (b) Why is it necessary for companies to shift to group mentoring methods? (2)
- (c) Describe the ways in which informal mentoring was done. (2)
- (d) In what ways is formal mentoring different from informal mentoring? Mention any two of them. (3)
- (e) Briefly explain the term ‘mentoring.’ (2)
- (f) Sum up the concept ‘group mentoring’ in a sentence or two. (2)
- (g) Who, as per the new version, benefits the experience or relationship of mentoring? (1)
- (h) How does mentoring in corporate houses help employees? (1)
- (i) Pick out from the passage the synonym of ‘Protects and helps to grow’. (1)

* * * * *