

MIZORAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
LIMITED DEPARTMENTAL EXAMINATIONS FOR PROMOTION TO
HEADMASTER, GOVT. MIDDLE SCHOOL
UNDER SCHOOL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM.
OCTOBER-2022

PAPER - I

Time Allowed : 3 hours

Full Marks : 100
Pass Marks : 40

Marks for each question is indicated against it.
Attempt all questions.

1. Write an essay (not less than 400 words) on *any one* of the given topics **(20)**
- Use of social media in education.
 - Use of technology in education.

2. Write précis of the following paragraph, giving it a suitable heading: **(20)**

Teaching is one of the noblest of professions. A teacher performs the sacred duty of making his students responsible, compassionate, and disciplined. Apart from developing their intellect, a teacher is also responsible for inculcating the qualities of good citizenship, cleanliness, politeness, and etiquette. These virtues are not easy to be imbibed. Only a person who himself leads a quality life characterized by simplicity, purity, and rigid discipline can successfully cultivate these habits in his pupils.

A teacher always remains young at heart, although he may grow old age. Perpetual contact with budding youngsters keeps him hale and hearty. There are moments when domestic worries weigh heavily on his mind, but the delightful company of innocent children makes him overcome his transient moods of despair.

3. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

English Ivy betrays its poor reputation as a nuisance by its unparalleled ability to provide shade. By seamlessly covering the exterior of a building, it works as a natural insulator, blocking the sun and decreasing air conditioning costs. This means big savings for both building tenants and homeowners alike. And it can happen quickly, too. Under the proper conditions, established English Ivy can grow to cover an area of roughly 500 square feet per year. Given that most homes have a roof measuring roughly 2000 square feet, ivy-friendly homeowners can rest assured that their roofs will be completely covered in about four years. When considering growth rates of newly planted ivy, just remember the old adage: First year, it sleeps. Second year, it creeps. Third year, it leaps! For English Ivy, this is especially true.

Now, detractors may take this opportunity to remind readers about how invasive English Ivy can be. For what ivy enthusiast hasn't been cautioned about its ability to burrow holes, fracture windows, and even deteriorate brick? But be warned. Oftentimes, this suggestion is taken to the comical extreme. Naysayers take a strange pleasure in spinning yarns about a particularly malevolent strand of ivy—one that slips in through the cracks on a hot summer night, silently strangling homeowners in their sleep. Admittedly, this can be a funny story to tell. But are we to believe such a tale? The intelligent gardener will quickly dismiss such rubbish for what it is.

Questions:

- (i) The primary purpose of the passage is to: (2)
- (a) highlight the reasons why English Ivy's fast growth rate is beneficial
 - (b) argue that English Ivy is an essential plant for homeowners
 - (c) belittle detractors of English Ivy
 - (d) defend the reputation of English Ivy
- (ii) In paragraph 1, the author states, "Given that most homes have a roof measuring roughly 2000 square feet, ivy-friendly homeowners can rest assured that their roofs will be completely covered in about four years." Which of the following logical mistakes does the author make in drawing this conclusion? (2)
- I. English Ivy will not cover the area of most roofs in 4 years if it only grows 500 square feet per year.
 - II. Most homes may not have the proper conditions necessary for English Ivy to grow at the specified rate.
 - III. Newly planted ivy does not grow as fast as established ivy.
- (a) I only (b) II only
(c) I and II only (d) II and III only
- (iii) Based on information in paragraph 1, which of the following would most likely be considered an insulator? (2)
- (a) an umbrella (b) a winter jacket
 - (c) an automobile (e) kin
- (iv) As used in paragraph 2, which is the best antonym for malevolent? (2)
- (a) wary (b) sensitive
 - (c) virtuous (d) injured
- (v) This passage would most likely be found (2)
- (a) in a scholarly journal about botany
 - (b) in a magazine article about gardening
 - (c) in a letter from one gardener to another
 - (d) on a website identifying different types of plants
- (vi) The author's tone can best be described as (2)
- (a) passionate (b) indignant
 - (c) argumentative (d) persuasive
- (vii) For each of the following words in the passage, give another word or phrase which means the same and can replace it in the passage: (4×2=8)
- (a) Deteriorate (b) Betrays
 - (c) Detractors (d) Invasive

4. Complete the sentence using the word for each blank that best fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole. **(5×1=5)**

- (i) The repair shop attempted to _____ the damaged automobile but ultimately decided it was irreparable.
(a) sabotage (b) salvage
(c) retain (d) economize
- (ii) Tim was such a worthless and lazy contributor to the group that his inclusion in it served as _____, rather than an advantage, to the group's progress.
(a) a hindrance (b) a positive
(c) an onus (d) a boon
- (iii) One of the most effective ways to resolve conflict is to seek an outside mediator, someone who can hear both sides of the argument and attempt to _____ the angered parties.
(a) inflame (b) pacify
(c) outwit (d) entice
- (iv) Because of rumours that the ship's passengers were sick with a terrible plague, the port _____ the ship and refused to let it dock.
(a) begrudged (b) purported
(c) sanctioned (d) quarantined
- (v) It is _____ that this message be delivered to the general, so be absolutely certain he gets it.
(a) imperative (b) optional
(c) intentional (d) adequate

5. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb as indicated in the bracket. **(5×1=5)**

- (a) Mrs. Kimi _____ Peter since he was a little boy. She has lived next door to his family for many years. (know, present perfect tense)
- (b) The children _____ outside all day. They must be getting hungry by now. (play, present perfect continuous tense)
- (c) The sun slowly _____ below the horizon as we watched. (drop, simple past tense)
- (d) Kunga _____ to drive the van. (learn, negative past continuous tense)
- (e) The bus _____ the station when Joe gets there. (leave, future perfect tense)

6. Indicate whether the word 'can' express ability, willingness, permission, or possibility in the following sentences. **(5×1=5)**

- (a) I can cook dinner. (b) Can you pass me the ketchup?
(c) Can I use your pencil? (d) Intense light can hurt your eyes.
(e) I can speak English well.

7. Underline the subject and circle the predicate in the following sentences. **(5×1=5)**

- (a) The storm clouds are getting darker.
(b) The baby weighed 7.2 pounds at birth.
(c) My friend and I are going to the movies tonight.
(d) Are we there yet?
(e) People really need to stop littering.

8. Rewrite the following sentences as indicated in the bracket. **(5×1=5)**
- (a) The dog was hit by the car. (Active Voice)
 - (b) The construction crew will build the house in five months. (Passive Voice)
 - (c) The question was answered by Julie. (Active Voice)
 - (d) The dolphins had learned many tricks. (Passive Voice)
 - (e) The letter was written by Kunga. (Active Voice)
9. Correct the errors in the following sentences. **(5×1=5)**
- (a) What time are we getting there cause I got to go!
 - (b) Anybody wants to come with me?
 - (c) What grade you got on the test?
 - (d) When I was three years old I can tie my shoes.
 - (e) I am taller then Ronaldo.
10. Underline the conjunctions in the following sentences. **(5×1=5)**
- (a) We will go as long as our parents can come too.
 - (b) Even if it is raining, I will not take my umbrella.
 - (c) We need to make a reservation in order to eat at the new restaurant.
 - (d) I practice English often, for that is the best way to learn.
 - (e) Either John or I will help you study for the test.
11. Choose the word that is most nearly opposite in meaning to the word in capital letters. **(5×1=5)**
- (i) UNAPPROACHABLE
 - (a) casual
 - (b) impenetrable
 - (c) withdrawn
 - (d) accessible
 - (ii) BIASED
 - (a) inclined
 - (b) disastrous
 - (c) neutral
 - (d) unfair
 - (iii) CEREMONIOUS
 - (a) momentous
 - (b) stately
 - (c) proper
 - (d) informal
 - (iv) UNKNOWN
 - (a) celebrated
 - (b) secret
 - (c) successful
 - (d) irrelevant
 - (v) DEMOLISH
 - (a) impair
 - (b) generate
 - (c) elevate
 - (d) endorse