

SIKKIM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

*Main Written Examination for the Post of Co-operative Inspector
and Co-operative Auditor*

Paper-I : General English

Time : 1 hr.

Maximum Marks : 100

Note : All questions are compulsory.

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

An important reason for ants' success is their ability to talk-not with words but with tastes and smells. Their vocabulary is made up of a mixture of substances they produce in various parts of their bodies and emit via their glands. The so-called
5 pheromones are signals that other ants can smell and taste. The messages they communicate set off a specific kind of behaviour : fetching food for instance or looking after the brood or feeding the queen. Furthermore. Ant-talk is not limited to food. Ants use a hundred different scents to communicate a
10 hundred different messages. With such a sophisticated array of messenger fragrances, ants organize complicated tasks with close-to-perfect efficiency. Every ant is a specialist with a vocation of its own. The queen has one of the biggest workloads-laying eggs round the clock. Despite the presence
15 of a queen, an ant colony is not a monarchy. The word 'queen' is actually a misnomer. "She doesn't reign over the others", says Holldobler. "She's a machine for laying eggs." From morning till nights she produces her daughters, the sterile workers of the colony. Males don't have to do much and the queen only
20 produces them when reproduction time is approaching. Their main job is to fertilize the winged females. After that they die.

Messengers don't have much free time either. When you see a handful of ants scurrying around in the kitchen without any apparent purpose, it doesn't mean they've lost their bearings.

- 25 They're scouts foraging for food. Once they've found way, something edible, they report back to base depositing their chemicals spores on the way. "Food located, please collect", is the taste and smell message for the other members back at the nest.
- 30 Very soon, long chains of worker-ants begin scurrying back and forth from their nest ferrying food which they hand over to ants who specialize in housekeeping. The duties of these ants include keeping the nest in good order and cleaning and feeding the queen. Jets ants settle in hollow trees where they
- 35 build papery structures to live in. In these trees, they keep herds of greenflies which they actually milk in the same way we milk cows. It's a model partnership. To satisfy their need for amino acids, the greenflies have to ingest large quantities of sap. As a result, surplus sugar forms in their bodies which they
- 40 excrete through their rear ends. This so-called honeydew is the jet ants' main source of nourishment. In return, the ants see to it that the greenflies don't get stuck fast in their own honey and also protect their herds from marauding predators such as ladybirds. "It's a form of dairy farming", says Holldobler.
- 45 Dairying is only one of the may ingenious ideas ants have come up with in the course of evolution. Small red wood ants, for example, regulate the temperature in their high-rise anthills by sunbathing on warm spring days and then scuttling back to the nest double quick to give off the warmth they've soaked up.

An ant colony, Holldobler says, is an almost perfectly organized network of equal status elements complementing one another in all they do. Ants will do anything as long as it's in the service of the common weal. "May be socialism does work after all under certain circumstances." Holldobler grins, "Karl Marx just had the wrong species in mind."

- a. Three words are given below. Give the meaning of each word as used in the passage. One word answer or short phrases will be accepted : (1x3=3)

(i) Foraging (line 25)

(ii) Marauding (line 43)

(iii) Ingenious (line 45)

b. Answer briefly the following questions in your own words :

i) What is meant by 'misnomer'? Why is the word 'queen' a misnomer? 3

ii) When do the chains of worker ants move about in hurry? 3

iii) What is referred to as 'milk' from the greenflies? 3

iv) What do the greenflies receive in return for giving milk to the ants? 3

2. Write a Precis of the following passage. 10

Trees give shade for the benefit of others, and while they themselves stand in the sun and endure the scorching heat, they produce the fruit of which others profit. The character of good men is like that of trees. What is the use of this perishable body if no use is made of it for the benefit of mankind? Sandalwood, the more it is rubbed, the more scent does it yield. Sugarcane, the more it is peeled and cut up into pieces, the more juice does it produce. The men who are noble at heart do not lose their qualities even in losing their lives. What matters whether men praise them or not? What difference does it make whether they die at this moment or whether lives are prolonged? Happen what may, those who tread in the right path will not set foot in any other. Life itself is unprofitable to a man who does not live for others. To live for the mere sake of living one's life is to live the life of dog and crows. Those who lay down their lives for the sake of others will assuredly dwell forever in a world of bliss.

3. Find out the Parts of Speech of the bold words. (Noun, verb, pronoun, adjective, adverb) (1x5=5)
- a. It rained **suddenly**.
 - b. His father is a **famous** man.
 - c. I **like** stories.
 - d. Sonam is a **nice** boy.
 - e. My friend refused my offer **gently**.
4. Fill in the blanks with the proper form of verb. (1x5=5)
- a. Bread and butter _____ his favorite food. (are, is)
 - b. French, as well as German, _____ taught in the institute. (was, were)
 - c. There _____ neither food nor water in the house. (were, was)
 - d. Politics _____ always discussed during his lecture. (is, are)
 - e. Neither Ram nor his parents _____ present in the party. (was, were)
5. Insert suitable prepositions wherever necessary? (1x5=5)
- a. How do you go _____ office?
 - b. How do I get _____ the Public Library?
 - c. Don't leave your luggage _____ the corridor.
 - d. How are you getting _____ at School?
 - e. I described the machine _____ him.
6. Fill in the blanks choosing the right phrase prepositions from the list given in brackets. (1x3=3)
- (in line with, in favour of, according to, on the part of, at the risk of, owing to, in place of, in memory of, by means of, instead of)

- a. The hospital building was constructed _____ the latest trends in society.
- b. The security arrangements were frightened in Delhi _____ violent incidents in several places.
- c. It was _____ my illness that I could not attend the meeting.
7. Write an essay of not less than 600 words on any one of the following topic. 12
- i) Your vision for smart city Namchi.
 - ii) Indradhanush to Revamp Private Sector Banks.
 - iii) Co-operative Bank in Sikkim.
8. Select the correct meaning of the underlined idiom / phrase from the alternative provided : (2x5=10)
- i) I gave him a piece of my mind.
 - a. Expressed love
 - b. Fell in love
 - c. Expressed anguish
 - d. Trusted him
 - ii) He has the gift of the gab.
 - a. A talent for speaking
 - b. A good voice
 - c. A logical bent of mind
 - d. Talking nonsense
 - iii) The clogged machine needed an old hand.
 - a. An old man
 - b. An instrument / tool

- c. A good and experienced worker
 - d. A change in its parts
- iv) In the heat of the moment, she gave out a loud cry.
- a. The temperature was very high
 - b. In a state of anger or excitement
 - c. In a state of not knowing what to do
 - d. Express guilt
- v) The pay is so low, that he lives from hand to mouth.
- a. To beg for a living
 - b. To not own a house
 - c. To not have any clothes
 - d. To have just enough money to live on

9. In each of the sentences, part / parts of the sentences are left blank. Beneath each sentence, four different ways of completing the sentence are indicated. Choose the word or set of words for each blank that best fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole. (2 x 5 = 10).

- a) This _____ the rise of fundamentalism and intolerance _____ by selfish groups and power-hungry politicians all over the world.
- i) Spreads..... banned
 - ii) Stops..... criticized
 - iii) Highlights..... fanned
 - iv) Covers up publicized
- b) The former vice-chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University

points out that every mosque north of Ernakulam has been _____ women to offer prayers for years now, and the opponents to this are in a _____.

- i) Welcoming..... temple
- ii) Permitting..... minority
- iii) A right of..... majority
- iv) Prohibiting..... fierce state

c) We are worldwide leader in the electrical _____ and we have what it takes to _____.

- i) Industry get things done.
- ii) Business..... take on.
- iii) Showrooms..... succeed
- iv) Shocks shock them.

d) Britain, it seems, has always been _____ on the verge of a software _____.

- i) Sinking..... Mania
- ii) Keen industry
- iii) Very much panic
- iv) Just boom

e) To neo-economist, however, both approaches seem curiously _____ in one _____ aspect.

- i) Lacking crucial
- ii) Curious..... and all
- iii) Weird or another
- iv) Mixed..... funny.

10. Choose the correct conditional to complete the sentences.

(2 x5 = 10)

- i) He eats at our place, if his mother _____(go) out of town.
- ii) If I _____(have) not seen him before, I _____ (not have) recognized him.
- iii) If I _____ (to be) the Principal, I would change the process of teaching.
- iv) Reema _____ (pass) if she studies hard.

11. Circle the best alternative to complete these sentences :

(1x5=5)

- (i) We can't / might not have enough time to get to the station.
- (ii) The traffic can / could be very heavy on saturday morning.
- (iii) Can / Might I take this blue suitcase, Mom? asked Nimesh.
- (iv) 'No, you might / can't. I need that one, snapped Mom.
- (v) I think you can / may well be worrying too much.

12. Change the following sentences into reported speech.

(2.5x4=10)

- i) Karim said "I'd like to know where the Laboratory is?"
- ii) The visitor said, "How far is it to the General Post Office?"
- iii) The librarian said, "Please maintain silence in the library."
- iv) The chairman told the man, "Stop interrupting the speaker."