

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA
(JOINT RECRUITMENT CELL)

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION FOR THE POST OF EXECUTIVE/LEGISLATIVE/COMMITTEE/PROTOCOL ASSISTANT
IN RAJYA SABHA SECRETARIAT

13th SEPTEMBER, 2008

PAPER I: GENERAL KNOWLEDGE & CURRENT AFFAIRS AND GENERAL ENGLISH

INSTRUCTIONS: (i) Write your Roll No. at the appropriate column on the answer sheet. (ii) Put 'X' mark only in the correct Box like this {X}. No marks will be given for responses outside the Box. Use blue or black pen only to mark your response. (iii) In case you want to change your response to any question, fully blacken the first response like this ■ and {X} mark in the correct Box.

Time: 50 Minutes

Marks: 100

PART- A : General Knowledge and Current Affairs

1. _____ is the capital of Mizoram.
(A) Dispur (B) Aizwal (C) Kohima (D) Itanagar
2. The only Indian State that shares its border with Sikkim is _____.
(A) Assam (B) Meghalaya (C) West Bengal (D) Arunachal Pradesh
3. _____ is the capital of Zimbabwe.
(A) Lusaka (B) Harare (C) Kampala (D) Brazzaville
4. The Speaker of Lok Sabha is _____. (A) elected by its members (B) nominated by the President of India (C) nominated by the Leader of the majority party/alliance (D) the Vice President of India
5. The Mavalankar Hall in Delhi is named after the _____ Speaker of Lok Sabha.
(A) Second (B) First (C) Third (D) Fourth
6. Mr. P.A. Sangma was the Speaker of Lok Sabha during _____.
(A) 1989-91 (B) 1991-96 (C) 1996-98 (D) 1998-2002
7. The Nobel Peace Prize was won by _____ in 2007.
(A) P. Sainath (B) Kofi Annan (C) Muhammed Yunus (D) Albert Al Gore and Rajendra K. Pichauri
8. Salman Rushdie received _____ in 2008. (A) Man Booker Prize (B) Nobel Prize for Literature
(C) The Booker of Man Booker Prize (D) Gyanpeeth Award
9. In July 2008, the Group of Eight (G8) summit was held in _____.
(A) Japan (B) Germany (C) Russia (D) the USA
10. International Monetary Fund (IMF) is _____.
(A) A specialised Agency of the United Nations (B) A branch of the World Bank (C) An economic organisation of the European Union (D) an Independent international organisation
11. The headquarters of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) is located in _____.
(A) New York (B) Rome (C) Geneva (D) Manila
12. Mr. Hugo Chavez is the President of _____.
(A) Colombia (B) Venezuela (C) Nicaragua (D) Paraguay
13. Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachand' is the Prime Minister of _____.
(A) Peoples Republic of Nepal (B) Democratic Republic of Nepal (C) Republic of Nepal
(D) Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal
14. The Legislative Branch of Bangladesh is called _____.
(A) National Council (B) Jatiya Sangsad (C) National Assembly (D) Majlis-e-Shoora
15. The Indian Parliament enacted the Right to Information Act in _____.
(A) 2003 (B) 2004 (C) 2006 (D) 2005
16. India was put under the direct rule of Queen Victoria for the first time in _____.
(A) 1757 (B) 1858 (C) 1877 (D) 1876
17. The _____ holds the post of the Chairman of the Planning Commission in India. (A) Minister of Planning
(B) Finance Minister (C) Minister of Human Resource Development (D) Prime Minister
18. The Legislative branch of the USA has a bicameral system; one is called the senate and the other, the _____. (A) Congress (B) House of Representative (C) House of Commons (D) National Assembly
19. The number of nominated members in Rajya Sabha is _____.
(A) 10 (B) 2 (C) 12 (D) 7
20. Bobby Jindal is the first-ever Indian American who was elected the Governor of _____.
(A) Arizona (B) Lousiana (C) Oklahoma (D) Nebraska
21. In the "Warrant of Precedence" the Speaker of Lok Sabha is placed _____.
(A) immediately before the Chairman of Rajya Sabha (B) immediately before the former President of India
(C) with the Chief Justice of India (D) after the Union Cabinet Ministers
22. The target for the growth performance in the Tenth Five Year Plan was eight per cent but the actual growth was _____ per cent. (A) 7 (B) 7.8 (C) 7.2 (D) 6.7

23. In 2008 the Chief Guest in the Republic Day Parade in New Delhi was _____.
(A) Nicholas Sarkozy, President of France (B) Gordon Brown, Prime Minister of the UK
(C) Hu Jintoo, President of the Republic of China (D) Hamid Karzai, President of Afghanistan
24. The first coalition government of the Republic of India was formed in _____.
(A) 1977 (B) 1989 (C) 1990 (D) 2004
25. The major languages of Malaysia are Bahasa Malay, English, Chinese and _____.
(A) Tamil (B) Telugu (C) Thai (D) Punjabi
26. India became a republic in _____.
(A) 1947 (B) 1948 (C) 1949 (D) 1950
27. Dadra and Nagar Haveli are a _____. (A) separate union territory (B) part of Goa
(C) part of Daman and Diu (D) part of Gujarat
28. The Adjournment Motion in Indian Parliament is the procedure for the adjournment of the _____. (A) House (B) Normal Business of the House (C) Question Hour (D) Zero Hour
29. The first house of legislation in India was called _____. (A) Imperial Legislative Congress
(B) Central Legislative Congress (C) Central Legislative Council (D) Constituent Assembly
30. The first modern Olympic games were held in 1896 in _____.
(A) Paris (B) London (C) St. Louis (D) Athens
31. _____ won the largest number of gold medals in one Olympic Games.
(A) Mark Spitz (B) Michael Phelps (C) Carl Lewis (D) Usain Bolt
32. The only individual gold medal was won for India by Abhinav Bindra in the _____ Olympics.
(A) 28th (B) 24th (C) 27th (D) 29th
33. The First Asian country to host the prestigious Olympic Games was _____.
(A) China (B) Japan (C) S. Korea (D) Singapore
34. India won the 2007 IIC World Twenty 20 Championship by defeating _____ in the final.
(A) Australia (B) Sri Lanka (C) Pakistan (D) South Africa
35. Out of the previously known planets, _____ has been demoted as a 'dwarf planet'.
(A) Uranus (B) Pluto (C) Neptune (D) Jupiter
36. _____ is the main constituent of both brass and bronze.
(A) Nickel (B) Iron (C) Zinc (D) Copper
37. The BPO provides _____.
(A) 24x7 call centre services (B) non core business services through an outside provider
(C) uninterrupted telephone services (D) communication to customers at a personal level
38. Nanotechnology is that branch of technology which deals with _____.
(A) speculative science (B) the structure and behaviour of materials
(C) biotechnology (D) manipulation of individual atoms and molecules
39. The virtual reality technology gives us the experience of real life situation in _____.
(A) a real world (B) virtual cyberspace (C) films (D) multimedia projections
40. Mosquitoes that cause dengue hemorrhagic fever bite people primarily _____.
(A) during the day time (B) at night (C) early in the morning (D) in the evening
41. The Chikungunya fever is caused by _____.
(A) protozoan (B) bacteria (C) virus (D) fungi
42. Jelly fish is called so because it _____. (A) is shaped like jelly (B) is made up of jelly like substance
(C) can control and expand its body (D) is also called 'sea jelly'
43. A PC is a _____.
(A) palmtop computer (B) laptop computer (C) desktop computer (D) mobile computer
44. Among the genetically modified (GM) food, India produces only _____.
(A) papaya (B) rice (C) mangoes (D) soyabeans
45. The two astronauts of Indian origin who participated in the space flights by NASA are Kalpana Chawla and _____.
(A) R.K. Murali (B) Sunita Williams (C) Supriya Chakrabarti (D) G. Madhav Nair
46. The abbreviation BPL stands for _____. (A) Business Processing Laws (B) Below Poverty Line
(C) Blood Pressure level (D) Bharat Petroleum Limited
47. RAM stands for _____. (A) Rapid Army Manoeuvre (B) Random Amplified Accessories
(C) Remote Area's Modernisation (D) Random Access Memory
48. PNR stands for _____. (A) Passenger Name Recorder (B) Permanent Number Record
(C) Public Network Review (D) Press Network Research
49. SMS stands for _____. (A) Subscriber's Message Service (B) Satellite Message Service
(C) Short Messaging Service (D) Simple Message server
50. LNG stands for _____. (A) Light Natural Gas (B) Liquefied Natural Gas
(C) Liquid Natural Gas (D) Low-Intensity Natural Gas

PART - B : GENERAL ENGLISH

I. Choose the word/phrase closest in meaning to the following words:

51. **Timorous** (A) weak (B) sly (C) tardy (D) timid
52. **Chiropodist** (A) one who treats spinal column (B) one who treats feet (C) one who sings in choir
(D) one who has chapped hands
53. **Irate** (A) testy (B) irritated (C) enraged (D) sharp
54. **Motley** (A) court jester (B) confusing (C) multicultural (D) offensive joke
55. **Imbricate** (A) involve wrongly (B) copy (C) arrange in overlapping manner (D) moisten
56. **Shackle** (A) slow down (B) metal loop (C) loud laughter (D) bit
57. **Prolix** (A) overweight (B) relating to population (C) tedious (D) constellation
58. **Gaffe** (A) rude remark (B) loud statement (C) joke (D) blunder

II. Choose the antonym of the following words:

59. **Fusty** (A) sweet smelling (B) chatty (C) pompous (D) angry
60. **Polyglot** (A) knowing many languages (B) knowing only one language (C) greedy
(D) having one wife
61. **Jejune** (A) old (B) childish (C) abundant (D) summer plant
62. **Lithe** (A) tanned (B) fat (C) glib (D) clumsy

III. Choose the incorrect part of the sentence.

63. (A) One who (B) knows his mind (C) is usually (D) treated with respect.
64. (A) She is (B) a sweet child (C) and an obedient one, (D) isn't it?
65. (A) Making mistakes (B) in spelling (C) and punctuation (D) are common.
66. (A) A fool (B) and his money (C) is soon (D) parted.
67. (A) Neither Sita (B) nor Gita (C) were (D) very shy.
68. (A) The man (B) which caught the thief (C) was given (D) a medal.
69. (A) The trees (B) and the grass (C) looks green (D) after the shower.
70. (A) The child (B) wept (C) at the thought (D) of she going.
71. (A) None of them (B) are to blame (C) for the accident (D) that happened today.

IV. Choose the correct preposition to fill in the blank:

72. **She never lets a day go ___ without remembering her friend.**
(A) by (B) past (C) over (D) away
73. **Will her friend stand ___ her in her hour of need?**
(A) with (B) on (C) by (D) for
74. **Have you not got ___ the cold?**
(A) of (B) by (C) in (D) over
75. **How can you given ___ so easily?**
(A) up (B) with (C) over (D) on
76. **Is the class ___ yet?**
(A) up (B) over (C) off (D) in
77. **She is the best mother ___ the world.**
(A) of (B) on (C) in (D) to
78. **Have you switched the lights ___?**
(A) off (B) up (C) down (D) under
79. **Have you searched ___ the bed for the missing toy?**
(A) of (B) under (C) off (D) above

V. Choose the answer closest in meaning to the following idioms:

80. **Cock and bull story**
(A) story about animals (B) bedtime story (C) improbable tale (D) fairy tale
81. **A storm in a teacup**
(A) a fuss about something trivial (B) a war treaty (C) a noisy tea party (D) mental turmoil
82. **To go the extra mile**
(A) swift runner (B) good fortune (C) extra effort (D) lose way
83. **At sixes and sevens**
(A) mathematical ability (B) cheaper in bulk (C) disordered (D) quarrelsome

84. **Two left feet**
(A) good dancer (B) clumsy (C) disabled (D) communist
85. **Finding your feet**
(A) feeling lost (B) being shy (C) making friends easily (D) gaining confidence
86. **Flash in the pan**
(A) flaunt (B) unsustainable action (C) sudden occurrence (D) brainwave
87. **Get down to brass tacks**
(A) military exercise (B) down to the basics (C) demotion at work (D) down on one's luck
88. **Get out of the wrong side of the bed**
(A) bad mood (B) unlucky day (C) marital infidelity (D) sudden accident

VI. Choose the answer closest in meaning to the foreign phrases commonly used in English:

89. **Primus inter pares**
(A) one who wins race (B) enemy of the people (C) first among equals (D) friend to all
90. **Non de plume**
(A) pet name (B) pen name (C) endearment (D) pseudonym
91. **Inter alia**
(A) between ourselves (B) confidential matter (C) among other things (D) pact between two allies
92. **Mot juste**
(A) inappropriate language (B) fitting vocabulary (C) instant justice (D) legal advice

VII. Choose the correct verb form to fill the blank:

93. I ___ if I were you.
(A) would (B) could (C) should (D) will
94. They ___ a great deal of trouble over this issue.
(A) have (B) have had (C) should have (D) has
95. You ___ in the examination.
(A) has failed (B) have failed (C) fails (D) fail
96. The weather report says it ___ rain tomorrow.
(A) shall (B) is (C) should (D) will
97. When she woke up it ___ after three.
(A) is (B) will be (C) should be (D) was
98. If I ___ the accused I should plead guilty.
(A) was (B) had been (C) were (D) was not
99. We ___ this road before.
(A) have walked (B) has walked (C) walked (D) will walk
100. The patient ___ to the doctor regularly.
(A) has been (B) has been going (C) been (D) to be