

Sikkim Public Service Commission

Main Written Examination for the Post of Assistant Engineer (Electrical)

PAPER - I

GENERAL ENGLISH & GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Morning Session

Time Allowed : 2 Hrs.

Maximum Marks : 100

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

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ENGLISH

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August is a month of anniversaries which includes Indian independence and the terrible trauma of partition. And the narrative of each historic event has been illustrated by the voices of people, mostly long dead, who lived through it. The magical power, the tingle, of hearing the authentic voice, catching each pause, the particular pitch of bravado and the tone of remembered horror: this is not the history of document and textbook, it is not the word of money or power; it is what happened to working men and women.

Oral history, the collection of the reminiscences of ordinary people as a valued part of the story of a time or an event told from the perspective of those who were caught up in it rather than from the view of the elite that orchestrated it, is younger than either of the two anniversaries commemorated this month. It has developed only since the 1950s, dependent on portable recording equipment and an appetite for a new, democratic history pioneered by Charles Parker's radio ballads. He, with the folk musicians and activists Ewan MacColl and Peggy Seeger, recorded the working lives of fishermen and steelworkers, rail men and miners, and the women who worked alongside them. They produced a series of radio documentaries quite unlike anything the BBC had ever produced before: a mix of voice and song with nothing else to break the spell of time and place.

A parallel development was being pioneered by the historian and socialist Paul Thompson, who became part of a wider New Left historiography that sought out the lives of ordinary people to tell the story of history from below, a way of uncovering a radical message about power and agency. That in turn generated a debate about the relative roles of the subject and the interviewer, the nature of the narratives that people construct for themselves, and the authority of those who hear them to interpret them differently. Oral history crosses the boundaries of both archive and voice to become something new again: a cultural instrument.

That is most true in the work of the Nobel laureate Svetlana Alexievich, whose first book, about the women who fought in the Soviet army in the second world war, has been republished in a new English translation. *The Unwomanly Face of War*, first published in Russian in 1985, is

composed of interviews conducted in the 1970s, when the legend of the Great Patriotic War was still – as it has become again under the present regime – a central element of national identity.

The veterans that the author interviewed had never thought of themselves as individuals, young women whose lives had been brutally transformed by life on the frontline. Instead their experience of the war was either obliterated entirely, or inserted into someone else's narrative. In the process of restoring to them their own memories – the injunction to look pretty, or the sound of tanks driving over bodies, or the experience of killing – Ms Alexievich orchestrates an account of what it means to be human that, despite being words on a page, sounds in the reader's head like a requiem.

Svetlana Alexievich rightly says she is a writer, not a historian. In her hands, the spoken word, even written down, conveys the vividness of individual experience, for it has the power of witness.

1. ‘..hearing the authentic voice,..’ means..

- A. Real events as documented by history.
- B. Real events supported by research evidences.
- C. Real events depicted in fiction.
- D. Real events narrated by people who witnessed them.

2. The narratives do not have any record because _____

- A. they were stories by real people.
- B. they were not written by historians.
- C. they were narrated by the participants of the time.
- D. they were documented by the victims.

3. Oral history is _____.

- A. a history narrated orally by historians.
- B. an orchestrated history
- C. a history recollected by ordinary people.
- D. a history of the people.

4. Oral history is a cultural instrument because _____

- A. it brings together the facts and practices.
- B. it brings the real lives of people.
- C. it provides scope for culture.
- D. it includes music and dances of people.

5. Why is the book *Unwomanly Face of War* considered a central element of national identity?

- A. It presents authentic voice of women who participated in the war and the witnesses of it.
- B. It presents the history of women in power who participated in the war and the witnesses of it.
- C. It presents the world of women and their sacrifices.
- D. It presents the lives of women during the Second World War.

6. '...sound in the reader's head like a requiem.' means

- A. that it moves the reader like fiction.
- B. that it makes one believe history was full of horrors.
- C. that there were more deaths in oral history.
- D. that it is personalized by the reader.

7. Which word in the passage means 'eliminate'?

- A. Commemorate
- B. Requiem
- * C. Obliterate
- D. Orchestrate

8. Based on your reading of the passage, say which one of the following statements is true.

- A. Oral history presents authentic facts and practices narrated by people who were witnesses of the particular times.
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- A. people in power and common people.
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- D. people with no knowledge of culture.

Directions. Questions 10 to 15: Find the word which is nearer to the meaning of the given word.

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- B. Think
- C. Dampen
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- B. Violent
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Directions. Questions 16 to 20: Find the word which is the opposite of the given word.

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- B. Denigrate
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- D. Unlike

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- A. Penalize
- B. Win
- C. Award
- D. Prize

21. Ample

- A. Enough
- B. Abundant
- C. Great
- D. Scanty

Directions. Questions 22 to 25: The following five sentences come from a paragraph. First and last sentences are given. Choose from the given three sentences (P,Q,R) the order in which they appear to complete the paragraph.

22. **S1:** I want to live happily always – This is the wish of all humans.

S2: _____

S3: _____

S4: _____

S5: Unfortunately, as we know from experience, we are mostly incapable of doing this.

P: After all, who would not want to prolong happy moments?

Q: We would like to retain that mood, those thoughts, not letting them slip away.

R: Consider the times when we have a happy thought or mood.

A. RPQ

B. QPR

C. QRP

D. RQP

23. **S 1:** Probably the most remarkable property of language is the way it enables us to talk about virtually anything we want.

S2: _____

S3: _____

S 4: _____

S5: Most of the sentences we read in a book are original, in the sense that no one has used those particular combinations of words and constructions before.

P: Productivity is the capacity to express and understand a potentially infinite number of utterances.

Q: And if it lets us down, by now immediately providing the required words and sentences, we change it so that it will do so.

R: This is what is meant when we say that human language is *productive*.

A. QRP

B. QPR

C. RQP

D. RQP

24. S1: A language dies only when the last person who speaks it dies.

S2: _____

S3: _____

S4: _____

S5: But what is happening today is extraordinary, judged by the standards of the past. It is language extinction on a massive scale.

P: There is nothing unusual about a single language dying.

Q: Communities have come and gone throughout history, and with them their languages.

R: Or perhaps it dies when the second-last person who speaks it dies, for then there is no one left to talk to.

A. RQP

B. RPQ

C. PQR

D. PRQ

25. S1: Once I wrote that telling the truth is the only function of poetry.

S2: _____

S3: _____

S4: _____

S5: Sometime, they come from three directions and clash at a particular point and that becomes the moment of poetic truth.

P: This is what I still believe as the true nature of poetry.

Q: We have personal truth; then there is the social truth; and somewhere hidden is the truth of our whole existence.

R: But the word 'truth' is problematic, as there are many manifestations of truth.

- A. PRQ
- B. PQR
- C. QRP
- D. QPR

Directions. Questions 26 – 30: Find the suitable word from the given options to fill in the blanks in the passage.

There are 0 (26) few reasons why I love B (27) alone. There is the obvious reason – the fluidity of unplanned, solo travel often _____ (28) the freedom to enjoy _____ (29) travel experiences in my hand. The second reason is that it gives me _____ (30) opportunity to interact with and get to know strangers, and perhaps build friendship with them.

26.

- A. a
- B. the
- C. some
- D. Ø (no article)

27.

- A. travel
- B. travelling
- C. tour
- D. being travel

28.

- A. thrust
- B. thrusting
- C. thrusts
- D. thrusted

29.

- A. immerse
- B. immersed
- C. immersing
- D. immersive

30.

- A. the
- B. an
- C. great
- D. some

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

31. With reference to the SWAYAM program, consider the following statements.
- I. The program aims to increase the participation of school children in sports activities.
 - II. The program is implemented by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Govt. of India.
 - III. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - A. 1 only
 - B. 2 only
 - C. Both 1 and 2
 - D. Neither 1 nor 2
32. Who of the following won the men's 100 meter gold medal at the IAAF World Championships 2017 held at London?
- A. Usain Bolt
 - B. Christian Coleman
 - C. Justin Gatlin
 - D. Yohan Blake
33. The Chabahar Port is located in which of the following country?
- A. India
 - B. Pakistan
 - C. Qatar
 - D. Iran
34. The Vice President of India is elected by an electoral college consisting of
- A. Only the elected members of both the houses of parliament.
 - B. The members (both elected and nominated) of both the houses of parliament.
 - C. The members of both the houses of parliament as well as state legislatures.
 - D. The members of state legislatures.
35. Nokrek Biosphere Reserve is located in the state of
- A. Meghalaya
 - B. Arunachal Pradesh
 - C. Tripura
 - D. Mizoram

36. Which of the following is a well known Sikkimese Journalist
- A. Chetan Raj Shrestha
 - B. Aparajita Rai
 - C. Karma Paljor
 - D. Danny Denzongpa
37. The term carbon footprint refers to
- A. The amount of greenhouse gases absorbed by a mature tree.
 - B. The amount of greenhouse gases produced by an individual, a family, an organisation, a city or a country.
 - C. The amount of greenhouse gases produced by industry only.
 - D. The amount of greenhouse gases absorbed by water bodies including oceans.
38. The ZED (Zero Effect, Zero Defect) scheme initiated by the Government of India to increase the quality of products matching global standards is targeted for which of the following sectors.
- A. Automobile sector
 - B. Civil Aviation sector
 - C. Infrastructure sector
 - D. MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) sector
39. Consider the following statements regarding NITI Aayog.
- I. It is a constitutional body.
 - II. The President of India is the Chairperson of NITI Aayog.
 - III. Chief Ministers of all states and Union Territories having legislatures and Lt. Governors of other Union Territories are members of the governing council.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

40. Which of the following commodities *do not* fall under GST in India

- I. Aviation turbine fuel
- II. Alcohol for human consumption .
- III. Laptop computer
- IV. Cement

Choose the correct option.

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 2, 3 and 4 only

41. The main objectives of 'FAME India Scheme' is to;

- A. Promote Yoga in the country.
- B. Promote development of hybrid and electric vehicle in the country.
- C. Promote ancient Indian culture and practices.
- D. Promote use tourism in India.

42. The term 'Swiss Challenge Method' often appearing in the news refers to;

- A. A process of social audit assessment.
- B. A method for providing cyber security.
- C. A process for awarding contracts to companies.
- D. A method for manufacturing Wrist Watch.

43. Which of the following is correct regarding 'Mission XI Mission' programme?

- A. It is an outreach programme to encourage children to play football.
- B. It is an outreach programme to encourage gardening as a hobby to school children.
- C. It is a programme of ISRO for launching foreign satellite.
- D. It is a programme to set up mega solar park in India.

44. FASTag, often seen in news, is a device for;

- A. Measuring blood sugar content.
- B. Detecting nuclear radiation.
- C. Tool collection on National Highway.
- D. Detecting levels of air pollution in a locality.

45. The Cartagena Protocol deals with
- A. Reducing greenhouse gases emission.
 - B. Protection of monuments.
 - C. Reducing nuclear weapon stockpiles.
 - D. Safe handling, transport and use of living modified organisms (LMOs) resulting from modern biotechnology.

46. Which of the following countries is/are full members of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)?

- I. Russia
- II. India
- III. Pakistan
- IV. Bangladesh

Choose the correct options.

- A. 1 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

47. Consider the following statements regarding 'Super Dads'

- I. It is a campaign launch by the Government of India.
- II. It celebrates a father's essential role in a child's early cognitive development.

Which of the given statements above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

48. The water conservation project 'Jal Sanchay' is implemented in which of the following state?

- A. Gujarat
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Bihar

49. Consider the following statements regarding 'Orang Tiger Reserve'.

- I. It is located in the state of Arunachal Pradesh.
- II. It has the largest tiger density among nationally protected tiger areas in India.
- III. It has the smallest core among nationally protected tiger areas in India.

Which of the given statements above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

50. Which the following is correct regarding 'Saksham Scholarship Scheme'?

- A. The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) is implementing the scheme to provide support to differently abled students to pursue technical education.
- B. The University Grant Commission (UGC) is implementing the scheme to provide support to differently abled students to pursue technical education.
- C. The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) is implementing the scheme to enable women to pursue higher education.
- D. The Department of Science and Technology (DST) is implementing the scheme to enable women to pursue higher education in science and technology.

51. WannaCry, recently in news refers to

- A. Computer software for tracking child trafficking.
- B. A ransomware that locks up files on the computer and encrypts them in a way that cannot be accessed.
- C. A programme for feeding malnourished children.
- D. A programme for immunization of children.

52. The famous festival 'Hornbill festival' is celebrated in which of the following state?

- A. Assam
- B. Mizoram
- C. Arunachal Pradesh
- D. Nagaland

53. Which of the following are tributaries of river Teesta.

- I. Rani Khola
- II. Rangeet River
- III. Dibang River
- IV. Rangpo Chhu

Choose the correct option:

- A. 1 and 4 only
- B. 1, 2 and 4 only
- C. 1, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

54. The term 'Phytoremediation' refers to

- A. The use of living plants to remove contaminants in soil and water.
- B. The process of decomposition of organic matter by using microorganism.
- C. The process of enhancing the decomposition of organic matter by using sunlight.
- D. The process of enhancing the decomposition of organic matter by using chemicals and sunlight.

55. Consider the following statements regarding 'Urban Heat Island'.

- I. It is an urban or metropolitan area that is significantly warmer than its surrounding rural areas due to human activities.
- II. The main cause of the urban heat island effect is from the modification of land surfaces.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

56. The term 'Net metering' often appearing in the news in the context of promoting the

- A. Use of mobile internet in every household.
- B. Use of piped water in every household.
- C. Use of piped LPG in every household.
- D. Production and use of solar energy by the households.

57. Which of the following is a footloose industry?

- A. Electronics industry
- B. Cement industry
- C. Iron and Steel industry
- D. Petrochemical industry

58. The Asian Athletics Championships-2017 was held in which of the following city?

- A. Ranchi
- B. Guwahati
- C. Kolkata
- D. Bhubaneswar

59. The Bezbaruah Committee Report deals with

- A. The concerns of the people of North East India living in other parts of the country.
- B. Development of road infrastructure in North East India.
- C. Construction of border fencing in North East India
- D. Development of hydro-electric projects in North East India

60. The report 'Ease of doing business index' is published by

- A. IMF
- B. World Bank Group
- C. WTO
- D. Transparency International

61. Which of the following measures is/are likely to increase inflation in an economy?

- I. Decreasing lending rates by commercial banks.
- II. RBI reduces the bank rate.

Choose the correct option.

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2