

MIZORAM SUBORDINATE SERVICES SELECTION BOARD**COMBINED COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION FOR
RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF ASSISTANT
NOVEMBER - 2022**

Question Booklet Series

B**PAPER I****Time Allowed : 3 Hours****Maximum Marks : 125****INSTRUCTIONS**

1. This paper is divided into two sections. Section A consists of two (2) essay type questions while Section B consists of eighty (75) multiple-choice type of questions.
2. Immediately after the commencement of the examination, you should check that this question booklet does not have any unprinted or missing pages or items, etc. If so, get it replaced by a complete booklet from the invigilator.
3. Please note that it is the candidate's responsibility to fill in all necessary details such as Roll Number, etc. and the Question Booklet Series A, B, C or D carefully and without any omission or discrepancy at the appropriate places in the OMR Answer Sheet. Any omission/discrepancy will render the Answer Sheet liable for rejection.
4. You have to write your answer for Section A *only* on the separate Answer Sheet provided.
5. Each of the multiple-choice type question under Section B comprises four responses (answers). You will select the response which you want to mark on the Answer Sheet.
6. You have to mark your responses for Section B *only* on the separate OMR Answer Sheet provided. ***Read instructions given in the OMR sheet carefully.***
7. All questions under Section B carry equal marks.
8. Rough work is to be done in the spaces available in the question booklet.
9. You have to submit your Answer Sheet to the invigilators at the end of the examination compulsorily and must not carry it with you outside the Examination Hall. You are permitted to take away with you the question booklet on conclusion of examination.
10. There are no negative marks for incorrect answer.



SECTION–A**(50 marks)**

This Section should be answered only on the Answer Sheet provided.

1. Write an essay on any one of the following topics in not more than 350 words. (25)
 - (a) Importance of ethics in the workplace
 - (b) Role of media in generating public opinion

2. Read the following passage carefully and write a precis in about one third of its length. Suggest a suitable title. (25)

It is, no doubt, true that we cannot go through life without sorrow. There can be no sunshine without shade. We must not complain that roses have thorns, but rather be grateful that thorns bear flowers. Our existence here is so complex that we must expect much sorrow and suffering. Many people distress and torment themselves about the mystery of existence. But although a good man may at times be angry with the world, it is certain that no man who did his duty in it is ever so discontented with the world. The world is a looking glass; if you smile, it smiles; if you frown, it frowns back. If you look at it through a red glass, all seems red and rosy; if through a blue one, all blue; if through a smoked one, all dull and dingy. Always try, then, to look at the bright side of things; almost everything in the world has a bright side. There are some persons whose smile, the sound of whose voice, whose very presence seems like a ray of sunshine, and brightens a whole room. Greet everybody with a bright smile, kind words and a pleasant welcome. It is not enough to love only those who are near and dear. We must show love and kindness to all. While, however, we should be grateful, and enjoy to the full the innumerable blessings of life, we cannot expect to have no sorrows or anxieties. Life has been described as a comedy to those who think, and a tragedy to those who feel. It is indeed a tragedy at times and a comedy very often but, as a rule, it is what we choose to make it. "No evil," said Socrates, "can happen to a good man, either in life or in death."



SECTION – B**(75 marks)**

This Section should be answered only on the OMR Answer Sheet provided.

Directions (Questions 1-3): *Select the most appropriate **SYNONYM** of the given word.*

1. REITERATE
(A) Frustrate (B) Illustrate
(C) Repeat (D) Receipt
2. DEFER
(A) Ignore (B) Reject
(C) Postpone (D) Defy
3. DELECTABLE
(A) Enjoyable (B) Sumptuous
(C) Agreeable (D) Delicious

Directions (Questions 4-8): *Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.*

A new Dutch experiment shows that working out a few hours after learning something new maximizes the brain boost. Subjects who hopped onto a stationary bike four hours after a learning session retained more information than those who biked right away and those who didn't exercise at all. Physical activity helps the body produce catecholamines, natural compounds that may improve memory consolidation if released at the right time.

A Norwegian survey suggests that close relatives of severely depressed patients may succumb to depression themselves. This may be because they're struggling with powerlessness and the fear that their loved ones may die by suicide. People suffering from depression are often reluctant to let relatives get involved, but when they are involved, everyone benefits.

4. Close relatives of the depressed succumb to depression themselves as
(A) they are struggling with life's problems
(B) they are struggling with indecision
(C) they are struggling with powerlessness
(D) they are struggling with power
5. Everyone benefits when
(A) patients only succumb to depression
(B) relatives get involved
(C) relatives protect their loved ones
(D) relatives remain indifferent
6. What maximizes brain boost?
(A) Working out a few minutes after learning
(B) Working out a few hours after learning
(C) Refraining from physical activity after learning
(D) Performing physical activity before learning



7. The antonym of 'reluctant' is
(A) eager (B) discreet
(C) confident (D) unwilling
8. Catecholamines, if released at the right time, may _____ memory consolidation.
(A) enhance (B) amplify
(C) hinder (D) impair

Directions (Question 9-13): Select the most appropriate verb/preposition/article/conjunction/etc. to fill in the blank.

9. I was born at Pukpui _____ Lunglei District.
(A) at (B) under
(C) in (D) from
10. She has _____ my invitation.
(A) declined (B) denied
(C) reject (D) receive
11. He is poor _____ he was honest.
(A) and (B) since
(C) yet (D) therefore
12. I shall be _____ obliged to you.
(A) very (B) much
(C) so (D) really
13. At the park, visitors are expected to keep _____ the grass.
(A) off (B) away
(C) aside (D) out of

Directions (Questions 14-17): Select the most appropriate word to fill in the blank.

14. The ladies were crying because they all _____ with those who had lost their relatives in the landslide.
(A) stand (B) sympathised
(C) regretted (D) acknowledged
15. One of the advantages of travel programmes is the _____ of faraway places which many viewers would not possibly see.
(A) glimpses (B) image
(C) portrait (D) picture
16. After the football match the crowds _____ out of the stadium into the nearest bars and cafes.
(A) poured (B) leaked
(C) trickled (D) dripped

17. She does not exercise anymore, so she has put _____ weight.
 (A) to (B) in
 (C) large (D) on

Directions (Question 18-20): *Given below are four jumbled sentences. Select the option that gives their correct order.*

18. (a) Pessimists see the glass half empty and the optimists see it half filled
 (b) I lead a comfortable life
 (c) No life is perfectly blissful
 (d) I am an optimist and I consider myself lucky
 (A) acdb (B) dacb
 (C) cadb (D) bacd
19. (a) Retirement is the time in a person's life where he or she stops 'employment' completely
 (b) Though retirement may be an ending or as we say 'a closing'; it is also a new beginning
 (c) However, wise is he who not only has something to 'retire from' but has something to 'retire to' and occupy his time
 (d) It is a time to do what you want to do with your time, when you want, where you want, and, how you want to do it
 (A) bdca (B) abcd
 (C) bcda (D) adcb
20. (a) The shoes requiring to be polished are cleaned off with a piece of cloth
 (b) They are brushed with a brush
 (c) When they start giving a shine, shoe cream is applied
 (d) The shoe polish matching the colour of the shoes is applied on them
 (A) acdb (B) adbc
 (C) dbac (D) dabc

Directions (Question 21-24): *Select the correct active/passive form of the given sentence.*

21. We are living a hard life.
 (A) A hard life is lived by us. (B) A hard life is been lived by us.
 (C) A hard life is being lived by us. (D) It is a hard life that we lived.
22. I have to finish this.
 (A) It has to be finished by me. (B) It will be finished by me.
 (C) It would be finished by me. (D) It should be finished by me.
23. He wants someone to take photographs.
 (A) He wants you to take photographs. (B) His photographs need to be taken.
 (C) He wants photographs to be taken. (D) He wants to take his photographs.
24. Let the door be closed at once.
 (A) You must close the door at once. (B) Close the door at once.
 (C) You should close the door at once. (D) You have to close the door at once.

Directions (Question 25-27): *Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.*

25. Burn the midnight oil
 (A) to be in danger (B) to use things generously
 (C) using up resources (D) to stay up working
26. A bone of contention
 (A) A reason to be content (B) A reason for discord
 (C) A reason for living (D) A reason for agreement
27. To put one's hand to plough
 (A) To take up farming (B) To get entangled in a fight
 (C) To take a difficult task (D) To compromise

Directions (Question 28-30): *Combine each set of sentences by choosing the correct answer.*

28. He overworked. His health broke down.
 (A) He overworked and broke down his health.
 (B) He overworked therefore his health broke down.
 (C) He overworked so his health broke down.
 (D) Since he overworked his health broke down.
29. He was punished. He was fined also.
 (A) He was punished and also fined.
 (B) He was punished as well as fined.
 (C) He was punished therefore he was fined also.
 (D) He was punished so he was fined.
30. He went to America. He went to earn money.
 (A) He went to America to earn money.
 (B) He went to America for want of money.
 (C) He went to America needing money.
 (D) He went to America for earning money.

Directions (Questions 31-35): *Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.*

“Who doesn't know how to cook rice? Cooking rice hardly takes time,” said my father. So, I challenged myself. I switched from news to YouTube and typed, “How to cook rice?” I took one and a half cups of rice. Since I didn't have access to a rice cooker, I put the rice in a big pot. Firstly, the rice has to be washed to get rid of dust and starch. I thought I won't be able to drain the rice and that it will fall out of the pot. I observed the chef as I swirled the rice around and used my dexterous hands to drain it, not once, not twice, but three times. I looked down at the sink and saw less than 50 grains that made their way out of the pot. Suffice to say, I was up to the mark.

The video stated that the key to perfect rice is equal amounts of rice and water. I have heard that professionals don't need to measure everything; they just know what the right amount is. But as this was my first time in the kitchen, I decided to experiment by not measuring the

water needed for boiling the rice. I wanted the rice to be firm when bitten, just like pasta. I don't enjoy the texture of mushy rice. It has to have that chutzpah; it has to resist my biting power just for a bit before disintegrating.

After what seemed like 10 minutes, all the water disappeared. I went in to give it a good stir. To my surprise, some of the rice got stuck to the pot. I tried to scrape it off but to no avail. At the same time, there was a burning smell coming from it. I quickly turned the stove off. "What have you done to the kitchen?" My mother shouted while coming towards the kitchen. I managed to ward her off.

Finally, when the time came to taste my creation, I was surprised! It wasn't bad at all. The rice had the desired consistency. Sure, a little more salt would've been better, but I just added that while eating. The experience was fairly rewarding and memorable. It taught me a new sense of respect for those who cook food on a regular basis at home or are engaged in gourmet creations professionally.

31. Father's question to the narrator, about knowing how to cook rice, was intended to
- criticize the narrator's lack of abilities
 - make the process sound simple
 - encourage the narrator to take up cooking
 - showcase his own expertise in cooking rice
32. Based on your understanding of the passage, choose the option that lists the correct sequence of the process.
- Use water to wash the rice
 - Repeat the process three times
 - Drain the water off
 - Put rice in a utensil
 - Swirl the water in and around the rice
- 4, 2, 1, 3 and 5
 - 1, 3, 2, 5 and 4
 - 4, 1, 5, 3 and 2
 - 5, 1, 2, 4 and 3
33. The narrator says that he has dexterous hands. He would have had a problem had it been the opposite. NOT BEING dexterous means, being
- uncomfortable
 - clumsy
 - unclear
 - clueless
34. Pick the option that correctly lists the final feelings of the writer with reference to the cooking experience.
- frustrating
 - amusing
 - satisfying
 - disillusioning
- 1 and 4
 - 2 and 3
 - 2 and 4
 - 1 and 3
35. Pick the option showing the CORRECT use of the word 'chutzpah'.
- It is the court's duty to dispense chutzpah to everyone irrespective of caste or creed.
 - The speaker may not have much of a stage presence, but you've got to admit she's got chutzpah.
 - I could crack the code easily which proved me to be a chutzpah and I was the only one who could do so.
 - After his father's demise, the daughter took over the family's chutzpah to save it from disaster.

Directions (Question 36-39): *In the given sentences identify the segment which contains the grammatical error.*

36. Rini could not went to party because her mother was not well.
 (A) Rini could not went (B) to party because
 (C) her mother was not well (D) No error
37. In a mature democracy like India, the voters knows whom to vote.
 (A) In a mature democracy (B) the voters knows
 (C) whom to vote (D) No error
38. She is the same person which I met yesterday at the park.
 (A) She is (B) which I met
 (C) at the park (D) the same person
39. Notwithstanding we were all busy last night we had to cancel the celebration.
 (A) Notwithstanding we were (B) cancel the celebration
 (C) we had to (D) all busy last night

Directions (Question 40-41): *Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word.*

40. (A) Achieve (B) Absense
 (C) Acquaintance (D) Acquire
41. (A) Misspell (B) Weird
 (C) Grammer (D) Disappointed

Directions (Questions 42-44): *Select the word which means the same as the group of words given.*

42. To make partial changes to something
 (A) Amend (B) Acclimatize
 (C) Stabilize (D) Differentiate
43. Having different meanings
 (A) Ambiguous (B) Manifestation
 (C) Nuance (D) Invective
44. The process of putting a decision or plan into action
 (A) Implantation (B) Implementation
 (C) Implication (D) Incantation

Directions (Questions 45-48): *Select the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If no substitution is required, select 'No improvement'.*

45. Susan advised John to keep away from involving himself in the protest.
 (A) for keep away from (B) that he keeps away to
 (C) to keep away in (D) No improvement

46. The children are kept at continuous supervision.
 (A) kept by (B) kept in
 (C) kept under (D) No improvement
47. He fell over in studies owing to his illness.
 (A) fell out (B) fell behind
 (C) fell under (D) No improvement
48. We were quite impressed with the enthusiasm that she works for.
 (A) that she is working on (B) that she is working with
 (C) that she worked with (D) No improvement

Directions (Questions 49-53): *Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.*

The Himalayas, or Himalaya, form a mountain range in Asia, separating the plains of the Indian subcontinent from the Tibetan Plateau.

The Himalayan range has many of the Earth's highest peaks, including the highest, Mount Everest. The Himalayas include over fifty mountains exceeding 7,200 m (23,600 ft) in elevation, including ten of the fourteen 8,000 – metre peaks. By contrast, the highest peak outside Asia (Aconcagua, in the Andes) is 6,921 m (22,828 ft) tall.

Lifted by the subduction of the Indian tectonic plate under the Eurasian Plate, the Himalayan Mountain range runs west-northeast to east-southeast in an arc 2,400 km (1,500 m) long. Its western anchor, Nanga Parbat, lies just south of the northernmost bend of Indus River. Its eastern anchor, Namcha Barwa, is just west of the great bend of the Yarlung Tsangpo River. The Himalayan range is bordered on the northwest by Karakoram and the Hindu Kush ranges. To the north, the chain is separated from the Tibetan Plateau by a 50-60 km (31-37 mi) wide tectonic valley called the Indus Tsangpo suture. Towards the south the arc of the Himalaya is ringed by the very low Indo-Gangetic Plain. The range varies in width from 350 km (220 mi) in the west (Pakistan) to 150 km (93 mi) in the east (Arunachal Pradesh). The Himalayas are distinct from the other great ranges of central Asia, although sometimes the term 'Himalaya' (or 'Greater Himalayas') is loosely used to include the Karakoram and some of the other ranges.

49. How long is the Himalayan Mountain range?
 (A) 2400 mi (B) 2400 km
 (C) 1500 mi (D) 15000 mi
50. Which statement summarizes the information given in the passage?
 (A) The passage talks about how the Himalayas act as a barrier to icy winds of India
 (B) The passage talks about the Mount Everest in the Himalayas
 (C) The passage talks only about the geographic boundaries of the Himalayas
 (D) The passage talks about the geographical boundaries and the height of the Himalayas
51. What is the northwest border of the Himalayas?
 (A) Hindu Kush & Nanga Parbat (B) Indus – Tsangpo suture
 (C) Karakoram & Hindu Kush (D) Karakoram & Nanga Parbat



52. How many peaks in the Himalayas are above 8000 meter above the sea-level?
 (A) Ten (B) Fifty
 (C) Five (D) Fourteen
53. Which word in the passage means “the sideways and downward movement of the edge of a plate of the earth’s crust into the mantle beneath another plate”?
 (A) Tectonic (B) Anchor
 (C) Subduction (D) Valley

Directions (Questions 54-58): *Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.*

The phone rang at Pratt Taylor’s house at nearly three in the morning. Pratt fumbled for the phone in the dark. He answered groggily after the fourth ring. “Hello,” Pratt mumbled into the receiver. “Mr. Taylor. Thank goodness. I need your help.” Pratt knew the voice, for sure. But still drowsy, he could not quite place it. “Mr. Taylor!” the man said again in a raspy, loud whisper. “I am in jail. I was allowed one phone call. I’m calling you.”

Then, the fog cleared. Although nearly ten years had passed since their last encounter, Pratt was able to discern something familiar in this voice. It belonged to a boy named Martin Hall, easily one of the most brilliant math students he had ever taught. But while Pratt recalled that Martin possessed an enviable aptitude for math, he also had a knack for getting into trouble. Still, they had forged a strong student-teacher bond, and when Martin graduated from Linebrook High School, Pratt had told him, “Call me if there is anything you ever need.”

So here it was – the call in the middle of the night. “Yes, Martin. Is that you?” “Yes, Mr. Taylor. Can you help?” “What do you need?” “Bail money.” “What did you do?” “We’ll talk about that later. Can you get me one thousand bucks?” Pratt knew he could, but he was hesitant. What had Martin done? What was Pratt getting himself into? Pratt’s belief in honoring his word determined his decision. “Yes, I can. Where shall I bring it?” “I’m at Jessup in Maryland. My brother will come by your place in the morning. Give the money to him, and he will come and bail me out.” “Okay.”

Upon hanging up the phone, Pratt was overcome by a dreadful feeling – his intuition told him that the decision to bail Martin out would be one that would vex him for a very, very long time.

54. What does the last line of this passage seem to suggest?
 (A) That someone will get hurt
 (B) That something bad will happen
 (C) That Martin’s brother will never show up
 (D) That Martin will spend a very long time in jail
55. As used at the end of the story, which is the best antonym for vex?
 (A) Excite (B) Heal
 (C) Humble (D) Please
56. As used in the middle of the story, which is the best synonym for aptitude?
 (A) Characteristic (B) Passion
 (C) Ability (D) Certainty

57. "Pratt fumbled for the phone in the dark. He answered groggily after the fourth ring." Which of the following is the best way to combine the above sentences while keeping their original meaning as used in the story?
- (A) Pratt fumbled for the phone in the dark, he answered groggily after the fourth ring.
 (B) Pratt fumbled for the phone in the dark and answered groggily on the fourth ring.
 (C) While Pratt fumbled for the phone in the dark, he answered groggily after the fourth ring.
 (D) Pratt answered groggily after the fourth ring, fumbling for the phone in the dark.
58. The beginning of the story states: "Then, the fog cleared." What is meant by this sentence?
- (A) The weather had finally improved
 (B) A light had been turned on in the room
 (C) Something bad had happened to Martin
 (D) Pratt had gained understanding

Directions (Questions 59-61): Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.

59. IMPEDIMENTS
 (A) Hindrances (B) Handicaps
 (C) Obstacles (D) Benefits
60. COMPLY
 (A) Consent (B) Abstain
 (C) Adhere (D) Oppose
61. METROPOLITAN
 (A) National (B) Provincial
 (C) City (D) Municipal

Directions (Question 62-65): Select the correct indirect form of the given sentence.

62. He said to me, "You are very intelligent."
 (A) He said to me that I am very intelligent.
 (B) He said to me that you are very intelligent.
 (C) He told me that I am very intelligent.
 (D) He told me that I was very intelligent.
63. The boss said, "What do you mean?"
 (A) The boss said what he meant. (B) The boss told what did he meant.
 (C) The boss asked what he meant. (D) The boss asked what did he means.
64. The doctor said to the patient, "Take only liquid food for three days."
 (A) The doctor told the patient to take only liquid food for three days.
 (B) The doctor advised the patient to take only liquid food for three days.
 (C) The doctor said to the patient, take only liquid food for three days.
 (D) The doctor told the patient, take only liquid food for three days.

65. We said, "We shall go boating on Sunday."
(A) We said that we would go boating on Sunday.
(B) We said that we will go boating on Sunday.
(C) We said that we shall go boating on Sunday.
(D) We said that we may go boating on Sunday.

Directions (Questions 66-70): *Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.*

The worst days of any summer are the rainy ones. We spend all year looking forward to nice weather and long, hot days. All of winter, with its dreary gray days and bitter cold, we dream of those endless days at the beach, laying on the sand and soaking in the bright and burning sun. And then, summer comes, and it rains.

As a child, I would wake up to rainy summer days and come close to crying. It wasn't fair. We suffered through months of school and miserable weather for those scant ten weeks of freedom and balmy weather. Any day that I could not spend at the beach or playing ball with my friends seemed like a punishment for something I didn't even do.

On those rainy summer days, I had nothing fun to do and could only sit inside, staring out at the rain like a Dickensian orphan. I was an only child, so there was no one else to play with. My father worked from home, so I was not truly alone, but he could not actively play with me since he was technically at work. It was those days that I would resign myself to whatever was on television or any books that I could find lying around. I'd crawl through the day and pray each night that the rain would not be there the next day.

As an adult, though, my opinion of summer rain has changed. When you have to work every day, summer is not as eagerly anticipated. Mostly, the days run together, bleeding into each other so that they no longer seem like separate entities and instead feel like continuations of the same long day. Everything seems monotonous and dull, and an ennui or listlessness kicks in. Such a mindset makes you cheer for anything new or different. I spend the winter dreaming of summer and the summer dreaming of winter. When summer comes, I complain about how hot it is. And then I look forward to the rain, because the rain brings with it a cold front, which offers a reprieve—admittedly one that is all too short—from the torture of 100° and humid days. Rainy days are still the worst days of the summer, but summer rain today means positively beautiful—and considerably cooler—weather tomorrow.

66. The passage makes use of language that is
(A) metaphorical (B) rhetorical
(C) formal (D) ambiguous
67. According to the passage, summer is different for adults because
(A) rain brings with it cold temperatures for the following days
(B) the weather is much warmer than it is for children
(C) they do not get a long time off from work for the season
(D) they better know how to occupy their downtime
68. Compared to how he or she was as a child, the narrator as an adult is
(A) more realistic (B) less excitable
(C) more idealistic (D) less calm



69. According to the passage, which of the following is a true statement about the narrator as a child?
- (A) He or she was often bored on summer days
 - (B) He or she preferred cooler weather
 - (C) He or she liked staying indoors
 - (D) He or she had no siblings
70. As used in the final paragraph, the word reprieve most nearly means
- (A) a permanent conclusion
 - (B) a short continuation
 - (C) a higher level of pain
 - (D) a temporary break

Directions (Questions 71-75): *Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.*

The Battle of Chancellorsville, one of the most famous battles of the Civil War, took place in Virginia in the spring of 1863. For months, the two armies had been staked out on opposite banks of a narrow river. The Confederate troops were led by perhaps the most revered military tactician in American history, General Robert E. Lee. The Union soldiers were led by “Fighting” Joe Hooker.

In appearance, personality, and lifestyle, these men were nearly perfect opposites. Lee, an older man in poor health with a gray beard, had a somber, measured demeanor. Hooker was a blond, strapping young man whose vanity over his appearance was but one aspect of his egotism. Whereas Lee was devout and principled, Hooker was known for his rollicking enjoyment of both women and whiskey.

Despite the fact that the Confederacy had won the last four major battles and the Union soldiers were famished, exhausted, and demoralized, Hooker proclaimed, “My plans are perfect. And when I start to carry them out, may God have mercy on Bobby Lee, for I shall have none.” Why, aside from a propensity for narcissism, was Hooker so confident?

Hooker had used spies, analysts, and even hot air balloons to compile a vast amount of intelligence about Lee’s army. He had discerned, for example, that Lee had only 61,000 men to Hooker’s own 134,000. Buoyed by his superior numbers, Hooker covertly moved 70,000 of his men fifteen miles up and across the river, and then ordered them to sneak back down to position themselves behind Lee’s army. In effect, Hooker had cut off the Confederate soldiers in front and behind. They were trapped. Satisfied with his advantage, Hooker became convinced that Lee’s only option was to retreat to Richmond, thus assuring a Union victory.

Yet Lee, despite his disadvantages of both numbers and position, did not retreat. Instead, he moved his troops into position to attack. Union soldiers who tried to warn Hooker that Lee was on the offensive were dismissed as cowards. Having become convinced that Lee had no choice but to retreat, Hooker began to ignore reality. When Lee’s army attacked the Union soldiers at 5:00 p.m., they were eating supper, completely unprepared for battle. They abandoned their rifles and fled as Lee’s troops came shrieking out of the brush, bayonets drawn. Against all odds, Lee won the Battle of Chancellorsville, and Hooker’s forces withdrew in defeat.

71. Based on information in the passage, it can be concluded that Hooker lost the Battle of Chancellorsville mostly because of his
- (A) vanity
 - (B) ignorance
 - (C) overconfidence
 - (D) faulty information



72. In paragraph 3, the author quotes Hooker as saying, “My plans are perfect. And when I start to carry them out, may God have mercy on Bobby Lee, for I shall have none.” The author most likely includes this quote in order to
- (A) demonstrate Hooker’s belief in his own infallibility
 - (B) provide an example of the way language has changed since 1863
 - (C) reveal that Hooker was a deeply religious man in spite of his lifestyle
 - (D) portray Hooker as a merciless general who was compelled by his hatred of Lee
73. The contrast drawn between Lee and Hooker in paragraph 2 is intended to
- (A) showcase the different backgrounds and personal histories of these two enemy soldiers
 - (B) provide support for the idea that Lee was a more virtuous person than Hooker, and therefore a better military commander
 - (C) prove that two men with very different values could end up in similar positions of power
 - (D) imply that these men fundamentally differed in their approaches to nearly everything, including battle
74. Based on its use in paragraph 3, it can be inferred that the word propensity belongs to which of the following word groups?
- (A) fondness, partiality, affection
 - (B) flaw, fault, shortcoming
 - (C) distaste, aversion, dissatisfaction
 - (D) tendency, inclination, predisposition
75. According to the author, Hooker’s advantages going into the Battle of Chancellorsville included
- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| I. numbers | II. position | III. strategy |
| (A) I only | (B) II only | |
| (C) I and II only | (D) II and III only | |