

**ROYAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION  
BHUTAN CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION (BCSE) 2016  
EXAMINATION CATEGORY: GENERAL**

**PAPER II: ENGLISH LANGUAGE & GENERAL KNOWLEDGE**

**Date** : 1 October 2016  
**Total Marks** : 100  
**Examination time** : 3 hours  
**Reading time** : 15 Minutes (Prior to examination time)

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**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Write your Registration Number clearly and correctly in the Answer Booklet.
2. The first 15 minutes are to check the number of pages, printing errors, clarify doubts and to read the instructions in the Question Paper. You are NOT permitted to write during this time.
3. This Question Paper consists of **9 pages** including this page. It is divided into TWO parts – PART I and PART II as follows:
  - PART I has two sections: Section A: Case Study and Section B: Topical Discussion
  - PART II has two sections: Section C: Subjective Questions and Section D: Objective Questions
- 4. Section (A) under Part I and Section (D) under Part II are compulsory.**
5. Specific instructions are provided for each section separately. Read the instructions carefully and answer the questions.
6. All answers should be written with correct numbering of Section and Question Number in the Answer Booklet provided to you. Any answer written without indicating the correct Section and Question Number will **NOT be evaluated**. No marks will be awarded for such mistakes.
7. Begin each section on a fresh page of the Answer Booklet.
8. You are not permitted to tear off any sheet(s) of the Answer Booklet as well as the Question Paper.
9. Use of any other paper including paper for rough work is not permitted.
10. You are required to hand over the Answer Booklet to the Invigilator before leaving the examination hall.

**GOOD LUCK!**

**PART I**

**SECTION A: Case Study (40 Marks)**

**Read the article below and answer ALL FOUR questions that follow. All the questions carry 10 marks each.**

**The Three Rules of Epidemics (An excerpt from the book: ‘The Tipping Point’)**

By Malcolm Gladwell

In the mid-1990s, the city of Baltimore was attacked by an epidemic of syphilis (a sexually transmitted disease). In the space of a year, from 1995 to 1996, the number of children born with the disease increased by 500 percent. If you look at Baltimore's syphilis rates on a graph, the line runs straight for years and then, when it hits 1995, rises almost at a right angle.

What caused Baltimore's syphilis problem to tip? According to the Centres for Disease Control, the problem was crack cocaine. Crack is known to cause a dramatic increase in the kind of risky sexual behaviour that leads to the spread of things like HIV and syphilis. It brings far more people into poor areas to buy drugs, which then increases the likelihood that they will take an infection home with them to their own neighbourhood. It changes the patterns of social connections between neighbourhoods. Crack, the CDC said, was the little push that the syphilis problem needed to turn into a raging epidemic.

John Zenilman of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, an expert on sexually transmitted diseases, has another explanation: the breakdown of medical services in the city's poorest neighbourhoods. "In 1990-91, we had thirty-six thousand patient visits at the city's sexually transmitted disease clinics," Zenilman says. "Then the city decided to gradually come back because of budgetary problems. The number of clinicians [medical personnel] went from seventeen to ten. The number of physicians went from three to essentially nobody. Patient visits dropped to twenty-one thousand. There also was a similar drop in the amount of field outreach staff. There was a lot of politics - things that used to happen, like computer upgrades, didn't happen. It was a worst-case scenario of city bureaucracy not functioning. They would run out of drugs."

When there were 36,000 patient visits a year in the STD clinics of Baltimore's inner city, in other words, the disease was kept in equilibrium. At some point between 36,000 and 21,000 patient visits a year, according to Zenilman, the disease erupted. It began spilling out of the inner city, up the streets and highways that connect those neighbourhoods to the rest of the city. Suddenly, people who might have been infectious for a week before getting treated were now going around infecting others for two or three or four weeks before they got cured. The breakdown in treatment made syphilis a much bigger issue than it had been before.

There is a third theory, which belongs to John Potterat, one of the country's leading epidemiologists. His culprits are the physical changes in those years affecting East and West Baltimore, the heavily depressed neighbourhoods on either side of Baltimore's downtown, where the syphilis problem was centred. In the mid-1990s, he points out, the city of Baltimore embarked on a highly publicized

policy of dynamiting the old 1960s-style public housing high-rises in East and West Baltimore. Two of the most publicized demolitions - Lexington Terrace in West Baltimore and Lafayette Courts in East Baltimore - were huge projects, housing hundreds of families that served as centres for crime and infectious disease. At the same time, people began to move out of the old row houses in East and West Baltimore, as those began to deteriorate as well.

"It was absolutely striking," Potterat says, of the first time he toured East and West Baltimore. "Fifty percent of the row houses were boarded up, and there was also a process where they destroyed the projects. What happened was a kind of hollowing out. This fuelled the diaspora. For years, syphilis had been confined to a specific region of Baltimore, within highly confined sociosexual networks. The housing dislocation process served to move these people to other parts of Baltimore, and they took their syphilis and other behaviours with them."

What is interesting about these three explanations is that none of them is at all dramatic. The CDC thought that crack was the problem. But it wasn't as if crack came to Baltimore for the first time in 1995. It had been there for years. What they were saying is that there was a subtle increase in the severity of the crack problem in the mid-1990s, and that change was enough to set off the syphilis epidemic. Zenilman, likewise, wasn't saying that the STD clinics in Baltimore were shut down. They were simply scaled back, the number of clinicians cut from seventeen to ten. Nor was Potterat saying that all Baltimore was hollowed out. All it took, he said, was the demolition of a handful of housing projects and the abandonment of homes in key downtown neighbourhoods to send syphilis over the top. It takes only the smallest of changes to shatter an epidemic's equilibrium.

The second, and perhaps more interesting, fact about these explanations is that all of them are describing a very different way of tipping an epidemic. The CDC is talking about the overall context for the disease - how the introduction and growth of an addictive drug can so change the environment of a city that it can cause a disease to tip. Zenilman is talking about the disease itself. When the clinics were cut back, syphilis was given a second life. It had been an acute infection. It was now a chronic infection. It had become a lingering problem that staved around for weeks. Potterat, for his part, was focused on the people who were carrying syphilis. Syphilis, he was saying, was a disease carried by a certain kind of person in Baltimore - a very poor, probably drug-using, sexually active individual. If that kind of person was suddenly transported from his or her old neighbourhood to a new one - to a new part of town, where syphilis had never been a problem before - the disease would have an opportunity to tip.

There is more than one way to tip an epidemic, in other words. Epidemics are a function of the people who transmit infectious agents, the infectious agent itself, and the environment in which the infectious agent is operating. And when an epidemic tips, when it is jolted out of equilibrium, it tips because something has happened, some change has occurred in one (or two or three) of those areas. These three agents of change I call the Law of the Few, the Stickiness Factor, and the Power of Context.

### **Question 1**

How does Professor John Zenilman's explanation of the syphilis epidemic in Baltimore differ from John Potterat's?

**Question 2**

How does the author refute the Centres for Disease Control's explanation for the spread of the syphilis epidemic in Baltimore?

**Question 3**

The author blames three agents: "Law of the Few", "the Stickiness Factor" and "the Power of Context" for the Syphilis epidemic in Baltimore. What is the author inferring to by the three agents?

**Question 4**

Of the three explanations, which one could have contributed more to the Syphilis epidemic in Baltimore? Why?

**SECTION B**

**Topical Discussion (20 Marks)**

**This section consists of four questions related to topical issues. Answer ANY TWO questions. All questions carry 10 marks each.**

**Question 1**

Bhutan is the 27<sup>th</sup> least corrupt nation out of 175 countries, according to the 2015 Corruption Perceptions Index reported by Transparency International. Corruption Rank in Bhutan averaged 36.70 from 2006 until 2015, reaching an all-time high of 49 in 2009 and a record low of 27 in 2015 (<http://www.tradingeconomics.com/bhutan/corruption-rank>).

Discuss the causes of corruption in Bhutan. Suggest some strategies to check corruption in Bhutan?

**Question 2**

Shakespeare was discontinued in 2006 with the introduction of New English curriculum. After nine long years, the Royal Education Council (REC) is likely to reintroduce Shakespeare in the English curriculum for secondary schools from the next academic session.

(<http://www.bbs.bt/news/?p=60908>)

Discuss the pros and cons of reintroducing Shakespeare in the Bhutanese education system.

**Question 3**

In Britain a referendum - a vote in which everyone (or nearly everyone) of voting age can take part - was held on Thursday 23 June, to decide whether the UK should 'leave' or 'remain' in the European Union. 'Leave' won by 52% to 48%. The referendum turnout was 71.8%, with more than 30 million

people voting. If you were allowed to vote for the same referendum, would you vote to 'leave' or 'remain'? Why? How would your decision make difference to Bhutan?

#### Question 4

In recent local government election, the media reported that some former *Gups* (Local Government Leaders) were being re-nominated. Who would do a better job of serving the *TsaWa Sum*, the former candidates or the new candidates? Why?

### PART II SECTION C

#### Subjective Questions (20 Marks)

**This section consists of four questions. Answer ANY TWO questions. All questions carry 10 marks each.**

#### Question 1

The Sherig Endowment Fund (SEF) was launched on August 24, 2016 with the objective to provide equitable access to quality education to children across the country. The fund is allocated to promote action research in the schools both private and government, to address challenges related to quality teaching and learning, school management and emerging youth issues. (kuenselonline, 24, August, 2016)

Do Bhutanese students have equitable access to quality education? In your opinion, how can the SEF promote equitable access to quality education?

#### Question 2

The United States presidential election of 2016 is scheduled in November 2016. The two presidential candidates are Hillary Clinton for Democratic and Donald Trump for Republican. Who do you think will be the next president of the United States? Justify your choice with practical reasons.

#### Question 3

One of the Missions of Bhutanese education system as mentioned in the National Education Policy (2012) is "To build a cadre of highly motivated and competent educators who are endowed with an abiding love of children, a deep love of learning, and who passionately value education as a positive instrument of empowerment". Respond to this statement, contemplating on the personalities of the educators you have had in your education life.

**Question 4**

“The Royal Government shall place employment generation at the core of national and local socio-economic development planning to address the employment needs of its citizens particularly, the youth and vulnerable sections of the society. Each local government/dzongkhag shall be responsible for the creation of local employment opportunities” (National Employment Policy, 2013).

Share your opinions on the implementation of this policy.

**SECTION D**

**Objective Questions (Multiple Choice - 20 Marks)**

**Answer ALL 20 questions by writing the correct option against each Question Number in your answer sheet. For example, 21 (c).**

1. The great Victoria Desert is located in
  - A. Canada
  - B. Australia
  - C. West Africa
  - D. North America
  
2. Which among the following countries ranks first in terms of per capita emission of carbon dioxide?
  - A. Trinidad and Tobago
  - B. China
  - C. Qatar
  - D. Kuwait
  
3. The luminous coloured ring, surrounding the sun is called the
  - A. Comet
  - B. Corona
  - C. Nebula
  - D. Asteroid
  
4. Which of the following organisations is NOT a constitutional body?
  - A. Royal Civil Service Commission
  - B. National Environment Commission
  - C. Anti Corruption Commission
  - D. Royal Audit Authority

5. The United States dropped atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in
  - A. 1940
  - B. 1941
  - C. 1942
  - D. 1945
  
6. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is an intergovernmental military alliance based on the North Atlantic Treaty. When was NATO signed?
  - A. 1949
  - B. 1990
  - C. 1948
  - D. 1950
  
7. Who is known as the father of Modern Medicine?
  - A. Euclid
  - B. Pythagoras
  - C. Hippocrates
  - D. Erastosthenes
  
8. Whenever the National Assembly is dissolved, the Druk Gyalpo shall appoint an Interim Government headed by a Chief Advisor to enable the Election Commission to hold free and fair election. Who shall be the Chief Advisor as per the Constitution?
  - A. Chairperson of the National Council
  - B. Chief Justice of Bhutan
  - C. Chairperson of the Royal Privy Council
  - D. The Attorney General
  
9. Olympic games were first held in \_\_\_\_\_ by the Greeks in honour of God Zeus at Mount Olympus in Greece.
  - A. 776 BC
  - B. 780 BC
  - C. 790 BC
  - D. 800 BC
  
10. Who invented the first practical steam powered railroad locomotive in 1814?
  - A. Henry Ford
  - B. Thomas Edison
  - C. Benjamin Franklin
  - D. George Stephenson

11. How many bones does a typical adult human skeleton consist of?
- A. 202
  - B. 203
  - C. 205
  - D. 206
12. Who said, “This country isn’t just carbon neutral, it is carbon negative”?
- A. Prime Minister Lyonchen Tshering Tobgay
  - B. Agriculture and Forests Minister Lyonpo Yeshey Dorji
  - C. Health Minister Lyonpo Tandin Wangchuk
  - D. National Environment Commission Secretary Chencho Norbu
13. What official title was Catherine given when she married Prince William?
- A. The Queen of England
  - B. The Duchess of England
  - C. The Duchess of Cambridge
  - D. The Queen of Cambridge
14. Who was the Astronaut who stepped on the moon with his left foot in 1969?
- A. Sally Ride
  - B. Buzz Aldrin
  - C. Yuri Collins
  - D. Neil Armstrong
15. Which organ produces insulin?
- A. Liver
  - B. Pancreas
  - C. Kidney
  - D. All of the above
16. Which of the following organisations is Bhutan NOT a member of?
- A. ICAO
  - B. SAARC
  - C. ASEAN
  - D. WIPO
17. In which ocean did the Titanic sink on 15 April 1912 after hitting an iceberg?
- A. Arctic Ocean
  - B. Pacific Ocean
  - C. Atlantic Ocean
  - D. Southern Ocean



18. When is your brain most active?
- A. When you talk
  - B. When you think
  - C. When you exercise
  - D. When you are asleep
19. In which year did Euro coins and banknotes enter circulation?
- A. 1960
  - B. 1993
  - C. 1999
  - D. 2002
20. Who wrote David Copperfield?
- A. Charles Dickens
  - B. Anton Chekhov
  - C. D.H. Lawrence
  - D. George Bernard Shaw