

ROYAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
BHUTAN CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION (BCSE) 2023
EXAMINATION CATEGORY: GENERAL

**PAPER III: BHUTAN AND ITS (a) SOCIO-POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS AND
(b) SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS SINCE 1961**

Date : October 7, 2023
Total Marks : 100
Writing Time : 4 hours
Reading Time : 15 minutes (prior to writing time)

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Write your Registration Number clearly and correctly on the Answer Booklet.
2. The first 15 minutes is being provided to check the number of pages of the Question Paper, printing errors, clarify doubts and to read the instructions. You are NOT permitted to write during this time.
3. This paper is divided into two parts:
 - ❖ Part A: Bhutan and its socio-political institutions.
 - ❖ Part B: Bhutan and its socio-economic development since 1961.
4. Answer **Five** Questions in total as follows:
 - Two** Questions from **Part A.**
 - Three** Questions from **Part B.**
5. Answers will be evaluated based on knowledge of the subject, analytical skills, originality, and preciseness of your response.
6. All answers should be written with correct numbering of the Part and Question Number in the Answer Booklet provided to you. Note that any answer written without indicating the correct Part and Question Number will NOT be evaluated and no marks will be awarded.
7. Begin your answer to each Question on a fresh page of the Answer Booklet.
8. You must hand over the Answer Booklet to the Invigilator before leaving the examination hall.

GOOD LUCK!

PART A

BHUTAN AND ITS SOCIO-POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS [40 marks]

Answer any TWO of the FOUR questions from this part. (Each question carries 20 marks)

QUESTION 1

Although our constitution provides a legal framework to foster the growth and sustainability of the extended family and community life, there are mounting evidences that traditional family structure and community practices are fast changing and declining.

Discuss how, in your opinion, the family, community and societal relationships that form the very core of Bhutanese society are changing today, and suggest ways to promote community vitality and the integrity of extended family system. **(20 marks)**

QUESTION 2

a) Terton Pema Lingpa's discovery and extraction of numerous treasures helped revive the legends of the eighth century's Guru Rinpoche (Padmasambhava) and his activities in Bhutan. Explain the role played by Terton Pema Lingpa in reviving the activities of Guru Rinpoche with specific reference to his (Pema Lingpa's) treasure discoveries and treasures which serve as the basis for rituals and religious discourses of Peling tradition in Bhutan. **(10 marks)**

b) Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel is idolized as a great religious and political leader who created unified nation state under theocratic rule in Bhutan – his most enduring legacy. In this regard, discuss the contributions of Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel with specific reference to Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel as consolidator, unifier and political leader. **(10 marks)**

QUESTION 3

a) Of the three institutions of Penlop (viz. Choetse Penlop, Daga Penlop and Paro Penlop) established by Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel, the Institution of Choetse Penlop still holds special significance in the political history of Bhutan. Explain the historical background of the Choetse Penlop and its symbolic and functional significance. **(10 marks)**

b) His Majesty the Fourth King Jigme Singye Wangchuck's reign between 1972 and 2006 can be aptly termed 'the Golden Era' in the history of modern Bhutan. When abdicating the Throne in 2006, His Majesty had many accomplishments in his name. Discuss some of the major accomplishments of His Majesty the Fourth King in terms of good governance and environmental conservation. **(10 marks)**

QUESTION 4

Scholars consider Bhutan's democracy to be unique and term as a 'home-grown natural democracy'. Substantiate with appropriate reasons why Bhutan's democracy is considered unique and home-grown natural democracy?

Give your answer by reflecting upon how Bhutanese democracy has evolved or nurtured in keeping with the visions of our Monarchs. **(20 marks)**

PART B

BHUTAN AND ITS SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SINCE 1961 [60 marks]

Answer any THREE of the FIVE questions from this part.

QUESTION 1

In pursuit of Bhutan's journey of "High-Value Low-Volume tourism" policy, and to differentiate itself from other tourist destinations, Bhutan raised its Sustainable Development Fund to USD 200 per person per night with effect from 1st July 2022.

What do you think of this decision? Assess the government's rationale behind this policy change. Analyze the impact of this policy on Bhutan's tourism industry and the economy as a whole. **(20 marks)**

QUESTION 2

With the onset of Covid-19 in 2019, the Royal Government of Bhutan could not implement many of the planned activities. Most of the resources were diverted to minimize the risk and damages posed by the pandemic. The economy was disrupted and it is still recovering from the damages suffered.

As Bhutan embarks on planning for the 13th five-year plan, what lessons can Bhutan learn from the Covid-19 pandemic? How does this affect Bhutan's future planning process? How can Bhutan prepare itself for something like this in the future? **(20 marks)**

QUESTION 3

Bhutan constructed the first-ever pedestrian Terminal in Phuentsholing in September 2022 with the objective to put in place a facility to document and regulate entry and exit of all Bhutanese and foreigners alike.

What do you think of this initiative? Justify your opinion. What impact does this have on Bhutan in terms of the economy, its foreign policy and diplomatic relations with its neighboring nation, and the national security? **(20 marks)**

QUESTION 4

Bhutan will be graduating from the Least Developed Countries (LCD) category by December 2023.

What does this mean to Bhutan? How will this impact the achievement of Bhutan's vision of "Developed Bhutan". With the 12th five-year plan coming to an end and the 13th five-year plan in the process, what strategies should Bhutan have to ensure a smooth and sustainable transition after Bhutan's graduation from LCD and achieve the "Developed Bhutan" vision?

QUESTION 5

Bhutan saw an unprecedented number of Bhutanese migrating to more developed countries in pursuit of a better future. Among the population that is migrating, a large number are public and private sector employees resigning from their jobs. How does this impact public service delivery and the economy at large? What can Bhutan do to ensure that critical services are delivered efficiently and that Bhutan remains a competitive nation? **(20 marks)**

TASHI DELEK