

ROYAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

BHUTAN CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION (BCSE) 2011

EXAMINATION CATEGORY: GENERAL

PAPER II: ENGLISH LANGUAGE & GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Date : 29 October 2011
Total Marks : 100
Examination Time : 3 Hours
Reading Time : 15 Minutes (Prior to examination time)

General Instructions

- This paper is divided into two parts – Part I and Part II. Part I has two sections – (A) Case Study and (B) Topical Discussions. Part II also has two sections – (C) Subjective Questions and (D) Objective Questions (Multiple Choice).
- Specific Instructions are provided for each section separately. Please read the instructions for each section carefully and answer the questions that follow.
- Section (A) under Part I and Section (D) under Part II are compulsory questions.
- For Section (D) under Part II (Multiple Choice Items), you are required to write your responses on the Answer Sheet provided.
- The intended marks for each question are given in the brackets.
- Please begin each section on a fresh page.
- The booklet contains 10 (ten) pages (including this cover page.)

PART I

SECTION A: A Case Study (40 Marks)

Read the following passage and answer ALL FOUR questions that follow:

Government has to prioritize strengthening all democratic institutions

This week was all about the newly elected gups and rightly so. The emergence of the local leaders is historic because Bhutan can now boast of completing its democratic transition. It now has the last democratic institution in place in the form of local governments.

This was a cause for celebration and His Majesty giving the Tashi Delek khaddar and kabney to the first crop of democratically elected gups was a testimony in itself. The royal gesture also symbolized the assent and the blessings of the throne on the country's successful transition to democracy.

After the first democratic elections in 2008, many of us expected the local government machinery to take shape sooner. Nonetheless, the birth of grassroots governance system three years on is also an achievement.

Now that we have all the democratic institutions in place, it is imperative to take stock of how we are already faring in further consolidating these institutions, the success of which will define the course of democracy in Bhutan. His Majesty has always maintained that for democracy to succeed, we should focus on building strong institutions. There is no other way out.

The story of all the democratic institutions can be best looked at through the experiences of the elected government.

This paper has pointed out in the past that one of the first initiatives the elected government should have prioritized after assuming power was to harmonize all existing laws of the country to the then newly enacted constitution. It would have gone a long way to strengthen all the institutions. Since such an exercise was not carried out, it resulted in few complications.

Right after taking over, the first challenge was to consolidate its authority and also win the confidence of the people. It had to define and consolidate its relationship with bodies like the Druk Holding and Investments and the Royal Education Council.

It was not long after that the elected leaders were criticized for fighting for their own benefits like their salary, insignia and perks rather than for the national interest. It also came with some tension with the executive. The MPs had their share of differences with the dzongdas at the district level while a debate ensued whether the elected ministers or the government secretaries were the head of the ministries.

Under the new system, the National Assembly then started having conflicts with the National Council over its power and responsibilities and it apparently still continues. It was also debated whether the National Council and the media were assuming the role of the opposition party in light of having a weak and outnumbered opposition party.

The intentions of the elected government came under severe scrutiny after the media exposed an attempt to hide the controversial constituency development grant and the state funding of political parties hidden in the budget. The issue also led to the Election Commission describing the two as unconstitutional to which the government retorted taking the debate and the confrontation to the public forum.

The media then exposed the government's decision to hike indirect taxes on many commodities for which the opposition took the government to court. The government lost. It then questioned the rationale of verdict which pitched the government against the judiciary.

The government has also had its differences and confrontations with the media where it has been accused of being patronizing at times. The Anti Corruption Commission has also openly asked the government to step up its tempo to fight corruption.

In short, the government has found itself confronting almost all other democratic institutions. In the process, there was no consolidated effort to strengthen the democratic institutions in place. It rather fell on the individual institutions to assert its own place in the democratic set up with the government doing that only for itself.

Now, with the emergence of the local government structure, the government will also have to define its relationship with it. The local leaders also face the daunting challenge of institutionalizing the grassroots governance structure.

One of the most difficult tasks for the new local leaders would be to remain apolitical as the constitution demands it. With most of the people already affiliated to political parties in the 2008 elections, it is only a matter of time that the new local leaders are accused of favoring a party over the other.

In such a scenario, we have to take note that strengthening all the democratic institutions can only be possible with the government taking the lead to come up with all the necessary legislation to facilitate it. We already have the necessary legal framework defining the independence and the functionality of all the institutions but it is also necessary to create a platform for all these institutions to liaise and work together and it can only be done with a conscious effort of the government.

Editorial by Business Bhutan / 16 July 2011

Question 1 (10 Marks)

The editorial above talks about His Majesty the King conferring Tashi Delek khaddar and kabney to the first crop of democratically elected Gups, symbolizing the assent and the blessings

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of the throne on the country's successful transition to democracy. What is the editorial alluding to in its phrase 'country's successful transition to democracy'?

Question 2 (10 Marks)

His Majesty has always maintained that for democracy to succeed, we should focus on building strong institutions. There is no other way out. Please elaborate your understanding of this statement.

Question 3 (10 Marks)

The editorial highlights anecdotes of variance of their views with the government on some issues. Discuss the role of media as the fourth estate of democracy.

Question 4 (10 Marks)

The Constitution of Bhutan requires elected leaders of local governments to be apolitical, which the editorial points out as being a difficult task. Discuss why it will be difficult for the elected leaders of the local government to remain apolitical?

SECTION B: Topical Discussion (20 Marks)

This section consists of four questions related to topical issues. You may answer ANY TWO questions. Each question carries 10 marks each.

Question 1 (10 Marks)

Bhutan received 40,873 high-end tourists in 2010 exceeding its own target of 35,000 tourists for the year by nearly 17%. Keeping with the Royal Government's policy of considering only high-end tourists arrival, the Tourism Council of Bhutan (TCB) has been conservative in its calculation by excluding the regional leisure tourists entering by road in the overall tourist arrivals. What are the pros and cons of growing tourism industry in Bhutan?

Question 2 (10 Marks)

Since the enactment of the Civil Society Act by the Parliament of Bhutan, about sixteen different organizations have registered with the Civil Society Organizations Authority based in Thimphu. Discuss the relevance of civil societies in Bhutan.

Question 3 (10 marks)

In the last one year or so, a wave of pro-democracy movement which started in Tunisia has swept the Middle East and North Africa, bringing about regime change as well as new political culture in some of the countries, both peacefully and through violence. What, in your opinion, BCSE/2011

are the reasons for such popular movement and what are the likely implications of these movements on countries with autocratic government not yet affected by such uprisings?

Question 4 (10 Marks)

On 31st December, 2005 His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo issued a Kasho (Royal Decree), a paragraph of which reads as – “*At a time when we are establishing parliamentary democracy in the country, it is very important to curb and root out corruption from the very beginning. Therefore, it is imperative to establish the Office of the Anti-Corruption Commission before the adoption of the Constitution and build a strong foundation for the Commission to effectively carry out its functions and responsibilities.*” Reflect on the Kasho and express your views on why His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo felt the need for the Office of the Anti-Corruption Commission to be established in Bhutan.

PART II

SECTION C: Subjective Questions (20 Marks)

Answer ANY TWO questions from the following four questions. Each question carries 10 marks each.

Question 1 (10 Marks)

A resolution on happiness tabled by Bhutan in July 2011 at the United Nations General Assembly in New York was unanimously adopted. The resolution calls the pursuit of happiness as a fundamental human goal. After the adoption of the resolution, the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Bhutan to the United Nations in New York said that the resolution was inspired by the belief that we need to begin discussing a topic whose moment has come at the United Nations. Discuss the global relevance of happiness as an integral part of human development.

Question 2 (10 Marks)

His Majesty the King and Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, the then Foreign Minister of India signed the India-Bhutan Friendship Treaty on February 8, 2007 in New Delhi. This event was celebrated as a significant moment in the history of relations between the two countries. In your opinion, how significant is the Treaty for Bhutan and how will it contribute to the friendship between the two countries.

Question 3 (10 Marks)

Since the enactment of the Tobacco Control Act of Bhutan in 2010 by the National Assembly of Bhutan, about 59 people have been arrested till date. Statistics with the Royal Bhutan Police show that those arrested come from different classes of the society and diverse professional background. Some of those arrested have been acquitted while some have been convicted. There has been a huge public outcry criticizing the Act as draconian. Express your views for or against the Act.

Question 4 (10 Marks)

His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo in His address to the Nation from Mongar on 17th December, 2004 said that ‘it is an important responsibility of the Royal Government to ensure that a time does not come when Bhutanese people cannot find employment in their own country. Such a situation must never be allowed to arise.’ In your opinion, has the government today succeeded in its responsibility to create employment for the people?

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 e.g. 21(b).

1. In which year was the Civil Service Act of Bhutan enacted by the National Assembly of Bhutan?
 - a. 2010
 - b. 2011
 - c. 2009
 - d. 2006
2. Which is the largest archipelago in the world?
 - a. The Philippines
 - b. The Maldives
 - c. Indonesia
 - d. Japan
3. At 8,481 meters, which is the fourth highest mountain in the world?
 - a. Kanchanjanga
 - b. Makalu
 - c. Nanga Parbat
 - d. Jhumolhari
4. Which year was designated by the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) as the SAARC Year of Poverty Eradication?
 - a. 1995
 - b. 2005
 - c. 2011
 - d. 1986
5. The Seventeenth SAARC Summit will be held in 2011 in which of the following country?
 - a. India
 - b. The Maldives
 - c. Nepal
 - d. Bangladesh
6. Which geographical line divides Canada and the United States of America?
 - a. Maginot Line
 - b. Durand Line

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- c. 49th Parallel
 - d. 38th Parallel
7. In which year was Mr. Amartya Sen awarded the Nobel Economic Prize?
- a. 1988
 - b. 1998
 - c. 2000
 - d. 2002
8. Mr. Dag Hammarskjold, the second Secretary General of the United Nations was the citizen of which country?
- a. Finland
 - b. Denmark
 - c. Austria
 - d. Sweden
9. In which country is the headquarters of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) located?
- a. Switzerland
 - b. Australia
 - c. United States
 - d. France
10. William Shakespeare was abbreviated or alternatively known as
- a. Father of English Poetry
 - b. Grand old man of Britain
 - c. Bard of Avon
 - d. Voltaire
11. The highest land point on the earth is Mount Everest. Which is the lowest land point on the earth?
- a. Dead Sea
 - b. Caspian Sea
 - c. Red Sea
 - d. Arabian Sea
12. In which year was the Treaty of Sinchula signed between Bhutan and British India?
- a. 1864
 - b. 1865
 - c. 1866
 - d. 1867

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13. His Majesty's Representative to and the President of the Bhutan Olympic Committee is
- Lyonpo Khandu Wangchuk
 - Lyonchhen Jigmi Y. Thinley
 - HRH Dasho Jigyel Ugyen Wangchuck
 - HRH Ashi Kezang Choden Wangchuck
14. The Chairperson of the National Council of Bhutan is
- Thrizin Namgay Penjore
 - Hon. Sonam Kinga
 - Tshogpon Jigme Tshultrim
 - Lyonpo Chenkyab Dorji
15. 2nd June is celebrated as which day in Bhutan
- Children's Day
 - Social Forestry Day
 - Anti-Tobacco Day
 - Environment Day
16. The Gross National Happiness Commission was erstwhile known as
- Planning Commission
 - National Development Commission
 - Department of Aid & Debt Management
 - Ministry of Planning
17. His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo issued the Royal Kasho of stepping down from the Golden Throne on
- January 6, 2006
 - December 6, 2005
 - November 9, 2005
 - December 9, 2006
18. His Majesty the King announced his Royal Wedding to Ashi Jetsun Pema during the 7th Session of the Parliament on
- 21st May 2011
 - 20th May 2011
 - 19th May 2011
 - 18th May 2011
19. How many constituencies are there in Bhutan?
- 205

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- b. 75
 - c. 47
 - d. 20
20. The annual ‘State of the Nation’ address to the Parliament of Bhutan is made by
- a. The Prime Minister
 - b. His Majesty the King
 - c. The Finance Minister
 - d. The Speaker of the National Assembly