

**ROYAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION  
BHUTAN CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION (BCSE) 2018  
EXAMINATION CATEGORY: GENERAL**

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

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<b>Date</b>	: 6 October 2018
<b>Total Marks</b>	: 100
<b>Examination Time</b>	: 3 hours
<b>Reading Time</b>	: 15 minutes (prior to examination time)

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**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 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 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 under each Section separately. Please read the instructions carefully and answer the questions.
6. All answers should be written on the Answer Booklet provided to you. Candidates are not allowed to write anything on the question paper. If required, ask for additional Answer Booklet.
7. All answers should be written with correct numbering of the Part, Section and Question Number in the Answer Booklet provided to you. Note that any answer written without indicating the correct Part, Section and Question Number will NOT be evaluated and no marks will be awarded.
8. Begin each Section on a fresh page of the Answer Booklet.
9. You are not permitted to tear off any sheet(s) of the Answer Booklet as well as the Question Paper.
10. Use of any other paper including paper for rough work is not permitted.
- 11. You are required to hand over the Answer Booklets to the Invigilator before leaving the examination hall.**
12. This paper has **9 printed pages**, including this instruction page.

**GOOD LUCK!!!**

PART I

Section A : Case Study

Read the article below and answer ALL FOUR questions that follow. All the questions carry 10 marks each. (40 marks)

**The Rest of the West (An excerpt from the book: Can Asians Think?)**

Let me begin with two Arab proverbs. One says, “The man who speaks about the future lies even when he tells the truth.” Another says, “For every glance behind us, we have to look twice to the future.” These two Arab proverbs capture well that challenge I face in this lecture. I am going to address the future, not the past, and all discussions of the future are inherently perilous.

My thesis is relatively simple: that the 21st century will be fundamentally different from the 19th and 20th centuries. By the end of the century, we will return, in terms of the balance of civilizations, to the world we saw somewhere between AD 1000 and AD 1500. I don’t know exactly when these great changes will manifest themselves clearly. I hope that they will emerge clearly in the next 25 years, while I have a chance to be around to witness them. But even if they do not happen in the next decade or so, I remain confident that great change will occur this century. I feel this deeply in my bones.

My underlying premise is that the West has played an unusually dominant role in world history for the past two centuries or more. Many history books have made this point. One such classic is *The Rise of the West*, by William H. McNeill. Another historian, J.M. Roberts, has this to say in his *Triumph of the West*:

It seems reasonable to expect agreement that the course of “modern” history ... has been increasingly dominated by first the Europeans and then the Western civilization which was its successor. By “dominated” I mean two things were going on. One was that the history of the rest of the globe was changed forever and irreversibly by the actions of the men of the West. The other was that it changed in a particular direction; it was overwhelmingly a matter of other cultures taking up Western ideas, goals and values, not the reverse.

So, to summarise world history crudely, for most of the past 200 years, Western populations have been subjects of world history while the rest of the world have been objects.

As a consequence of dominating the world for two centuries or more, the West has spun several layers of influence around the globe, which in one way or another perpetuate that domination. Curiously, most Western minds cannot see the layers of Western influence because they have spent most of their lives above these layers. Those who live under them know how extensive and deep they are, and those who, like me, have travelled from beneath the layers to climb over them can perhaps see both sides of the picture. And only this transition that I have made in my life has emboldened me to make the outrageous claims that I will make here.

A small personal anecdote may help explain what life was like under the layers. Forty-six years ago, when I went to school for the first time in Singapore, then a British colony, I once asked my classmate, Morgan, where he wanted to be when he grew up. He replied, “London, of course.” I asked why. He replied, “Because in London the streets are paved with gold.” This was how mighty and strong

London appeared to be in our young minds. British colonial rule has long gone, but that removed only one layer of Western influence. Other layers remain.

The main conclusion I wish to draw is that sometime in the 21st century, we will see what I will call the “Rest of the West”. There is a deliberate double entendre in my use of the word “Rest”: to connote both passivity and remainder.

Having said that my subject will be the rest of the West, let me quickly add that I do not belong to the Western school of declinists. I do not foresee the decline and fall of Western civilisation for a long time more. But what is likely to end is its domination of the world. I see this as neither happy nor a sad conclusion. I have argued many times previously that for the past few centuries, the West has borne the primary burden of advancing human civilisation. The huge leaps in science and technology have resulted in huge increases in the standard and quality of life for much of mankind, as well as the significant new ideas in social and political philosophy that have generated revolutionary ideas of freedom and equality for all men, have all emerged from Western societies. Mankind today would have been in a sorry state if the West had not transformed itself into the most dynamic civilisation on earth. But since it has carried the burden of advancing mankind’s fortunes for several centuries, perhaps it is time that we gave the West a rest.

At the same time, I would like to send a message of hope to the five-sixths of the world’s population who live outside the West. If my thesis is proven correct, then the two centuries during which they have essentially been passengers on the bus will end. In this coming century, if they learn the lessons of history well, they may finally get the opportunity to be co-drivers of the global bus. And, to be honest, my reason for choosing this topic was precisely to send out this message of hope. Most living in the West do not appreciate or understand the feelings among many in the Third World that they are essentially second-class citizens of our globe. They need to believe that they too can become first-class citizens.

One key lesson of history is that change has never been easy or smooth. Often it has been difficult or turbulent. To capture some of the difficulties of the process of change, I am going to borrow the Hegelian/Marxist dialectical concept of change - that change takes place in a process of thesis, anti-thesis and synthesis. My thesis will be that even today the world continues to be dominated by the West. My anti-thesis will be about the forces bringing about the end of Western domination and my synthesis will be about the Rest of the West. The image I mentioned, of a world still covered by layers of Western influence, will describe my thesis. My anti-thesis will describe how these layers will retreat from the globe and my synthesis will, I hope, give a glimpse of the world to come when these layers retreat.

### **Question 1**

According to the author, how will the 21<sup>st</sup> century be different from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century?

### **Question 2**

“I have argued many times previously that for the past few centuries, the West has borne the primary burden of advancing human civilization”.

How did the West bear the primary burden of advancing human civilization? What is the inference of the use of the phrase ‘primary burden’ in the sentence?

**Question 3**

Using cues from the last paragraph of the article, explain in your own words the terms, ‘thesis’, ‘anti-thesis’ and ‘synthesis’ with examples.

**Question 4**

What is the significance of the Arab proverb: “The man who speaks about the future lies even when he tells the truth” in the essay?

**Section B : Topical Discussion**

**This section consists of four questions related to topical issues. Answer ANY TWO questions. Each question carries 10 marks.**

**Question 1**

In the 2018 State of the Nation report, the former prime minister of Bhutan reported that the local government was given more fiscal autonomy and decision making. In fact, every dzongkhag was provided Nu. 70 Million each year, which supported economic development projects and activities creating 8,200 jobs in the dzongkhags (Kuensel, June 29, 2018).

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of giving both fiscal and decision-making autonomy to the local government in Bhutan.

**Question 2**

According to the Population and Housing Census of Bhutan (PHCB) 2017, while the unemployment rate in 19 districts has decreased in the last 13 years, in Thimphu’s case, it increased from 5.4% in 2005 to 6% in 2017.

What factors contributed to the increase in the unemployment rate in Thimphu?

**Question 3**

The verbal battle on BBS between the political representatives seem rather farfetched especially with regard to certain policies and issues such as Bhutan’s self-sufficiency and the reduction of the gap between the rich and the poor. If you were in the political set up that have these policies in the manifesto, why would you or wouldn’t support such policies?

**Question 4**

Extreme weather events and natural disasters are the likeliest global risks to occur in 2018, according to experts surveyed by the World Economic Forum. Almost 1,000 global experts and decision-makers were surveyed on their views on the most significant risks that face the world. The risks ranged from the diverse categories of economic, environmental, geopolitical, societal and technological. (Published 4:11 AM ET Wed, 17 Jan 2018 Updated 12:20 PM ET Thu, 18 Jan 2018, <https://www.cnbc.com/2018/01/17/world-entering-critical-period-of-intensified-risks-in-2018-wef-says.html>)

Which of the global risks cited by the experts surveyed by WEF pose a threat to Bhutan too? Do you think Bhutan is prepared to face such a threat?

**Part II**

**Section C : Subjective Questions**

**This section consists of four questions. Answer ANY TWO questions. Each question carries 10 each.**

**Question 1**

On November 5, 2015, the then Prime Minister, Tshering Tobgay made this comment to The Straits Times, a Singapore newspaper: "People in Bhutan are getting happier as living standards improve, but social isolation is increasing in the remote kingdom that famously prioritises "gross national happiness" over wealth".

Do you agree or disagree with the prime minister's comment? Justify your stance.

**Question 2**

One of the Vice Presidents of a political party has recently said, "We are interested to know the outcome of the government policies of over five years on the lives of our Bhutanese. Are they all equally happy? Do they have equal opportunities? Are the policies fair for all Bhutanese?" (BBS, July 20, 2018) <http://www.bbs.bt/news/?p=100326>

In your opinion, can any party coming into power in 2018 will be able the address the three issues raised in the above questions?

**Question 3**

As Bhutan prepares to graduate from an LDC status in the next three years, there seems to be an equally fervent fear that the graduation would not match the actual status of the Kingdom. What are your personal observations about Bhutan's graduation from the LDC status and the current socio-economic situation of the Kingdom?

**Question 4**

Single parenting has become almost a socially accepted phenomenon especially in urban Bhutan. The children brought up thus usually have trouble attending schools, adjusting to social norms and often get labelled as delinquent youth of the country. According to your own assessment of the country's development, what can the government do to address this issue?

**Section D : Multiple Choice Questions**

**Choose the correct answer and write down the letter of your chosen answer in the Answer Booklet against the question number e.g. 21 (a). Each question carries ONE mark. Any double writing, smudgy answers or writing more than one choice shall not be evaluated.**

1. Which food item takes its name from the French for 'twice cooked'?
  - a) Cake
  - b) Biscuit
  - c) Chocolate
  - d) Doughnut
  
2. What is the capital of Vietnam?
  - a) Hanoi
  - b) Da Nang
  - c) Haiphong
  - d) Ho Chi Minh
  
3. Who invented the first mobile phone?
  - a) Steve Jobs
  - b) Arnele Harris
  - c) Martin Cooper
  - d) Lee Byung-chul
  
4. What is the singular form of 'Indices'?
  - a) Indie
  - b) Index
  - c) Indic
  - d) Indicant
  
5. The latest literacy rate of Bhutan is
  - a) 59.5%
  - b) 60.5 %
  - c) 71.4%,
  - d) 81.5%

6. As of 30 May 2017, Bhutan's population of the Bhutanese nationals is
- a) 681,553
  - b) 681,720
  - c) 735,553
  - d) 735,720
7. According to the 2017 National Population and Housing Census of Bhutan, the unemployment rate in Bhutan is
- a) 5.4%
  - b) 4.1%
  - c) 3.1%
  - d) 2.4%
8. Identify the prerequisite which disqualifies a Bhutanese citizen with valid citizenship identity card to vote for a constituency.
- a) Have been living in a foreign country for the past 10 years.
  - b) Not younger than eighteen years of age on the qualifying date as specified by the Election Commission.
  - c) Registered in the civil registry of the Government pertaining to that constituency and having his/her Gung or Mitsi in that place for not less than one year before the qualifying date.
  - d) Not otherwise disqualified from voting under law in force in Bhutan.
9. Identify the prerequisite which is not a qualification for a person to serve as the Chief Election Commissioner or the Election Commissioner of Bhutan.
- a) Above 40 years of age.
  - b) A natural born citizen of Bhutan.
  - c) Not convicted of any criminal offence.
  - d) Not married to a person who is not a citizen of Bhutan.
10. Name the person after whom the month July is named.
- a) Julie Andrews
  - b) Juliet Jones
  - c) Julius Caesar
  - d) Julian Moore
11. How many dozens are there in a gross?
- a) 3
  - b) 6
  - c) 9
  - d) 12

12. What quantity you would be measuring in cubic metres?
- a) Perimeter
  - b) Volume
  - c) length
  - d) Area
13. Where is Monpa (or Olekha) spoken in Bhutan?
- a) Mongar
  - b) Lhuntse
  - c) Trongsa
  - d) Wangdue Phodrang
14. The Asian financial crisis that started in 1997, started in Thailand and was known in Thailand as
- a) The Tom Yum Goong Crisis
  - b) The Great Thailand financial crisis
  - c) The Great Thai Spillover
  - d) The Tom Yum Financial Crisis
15. What was the theme of the 2018 World Earth Day?
- a) No to Plastic
  - b) End Plastic Pollution
  - c) Save Mother Earth from Plastic
  - d) Plastic Pollution: A Menace
16. The author of the controversial book 'Lajja' is a citizen of:
- a) Pakistan
  - b) Indonesia
  - c) Bangladesh
  - d) India
17. The UNSECO's 'Prix Jules Verne' prize has been given to which of the following Indian serials of Doordarshan?
- a) The World This Week
  - b) Turning Point
  - c) Surabhi
  - d) Eye Witness
18. Which of the following countries are the members of OPEC?
- a) Algeria, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait
  - b) Libya, United Arab Emirates, Nigeria
  - c) Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela
  - d) All of the above

19. Which country has, "This is the root of all evil" written on its coins?

- a) Italy
- b) Vatican City
- c) Cuba
- d) Russia

20. Who created the character "Sancho Panza"?

- a) Shelley
- b) Kipling
- c) Cervantes
- d) George Eliot

**TASHI DELEK!!!**