

ROYAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION EXAMINATION (CSCE), 2011

EXAMINATION CATEGORY: GENERAL

PART III

**BHUTAN AND ITS POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT SINCE 1961**

Date : 30th October, 2011
Total Marks : 100
Examination Time : 3 hours
Reading Time : 15 minutes (prior to exam time)

Read the following instructions carefully:

1. This paper consists of TWO Parts. Answer **FIVE** questions in total as follows:
TWO QUESTIONS from **PART A: Bhutan and its socio-political institutions**
THREE QUESTIONS from **PART B: Bhutan and its socio-economic development since 1961**
2. Answers will be evaluated on:
 - ✓ Knowledge of the subject
 - ✓ Analytical skills, originality and preciseness of your response
 - ✓ Language competency and writing skills
3. Each question carries 20 marks. Marks are allocated in brackets at the end of each question/sub question.
4. This paper has total of 4 (four) pages excluding the front page.

Part A

Bhutan and its socio-political institutions

Answer any **TWO** of the **FIVE** questions from this part (*each question carries 20 marks*)

Question **ONE**:

1. The Buddhist Saint Pema Lingpa (1450-1521) was a treasure revealer, folk hero, spiritual master and a source of national pride and inspiration. His legacies are—among many others—the introduction of enormous corpus of literature, rituals and dances, monasteries, spiritual lineages, and more important is his descendants, the present Royal family. Explain his roles in promoting the religious institutions and national identity of Bhutan. (10 marks)
2. Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel (1616-1651) is described as ‘a supreme leader, mighty builder, subduer and architect of the political system of Bhutan’. Discuss his main contributions in shaping the political destiny of Bhutan. (10 marks)

Question **TWO**:

1. What are the major social and political reforms initiated by His Majesty the Third King Jigme Dorji Wangchuck (1952-1972)? (10 marks)
2. In thirty-four years of the ‘Golden Reign’ (1972-2006), His Majesty King Jigme Singye Wangchuck brought about unprecedented social and political transformations in Bhutan. Discuss the most important social and political achievements. (10 marks)

Question **THREE**:

This year (2011) is very special for Bhutan. The historic Royal wedding of the Fifth Druk Gyalpo with Her Majesty the Queen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck marked the unfolding of a new era and promising future for the country and its people.

1. Symbolically, the wedding of His Majesty the King (and also crowning of the Queen) is not for himself but for the people, country and the future. Discuss the significance of the Royal wedding to the Bhutanese people and country. (8 marks)

2. The Royal wedding was conducted strictly according to the Bhutanese customs and traditions, and the ceremony symbolized more of a spiritual union of the King and Queen, sealed in the presence of Buddhist figures of the past and present. Elucidate the symbolic meaning of the following (*Total 8 marks, each answer carries 2 marks*):
- 1) *Marchang* and *thruesel* ceremonies
 - 2) The Royal wedding symbol or emblem
 - 3) The Queen's Crown
 - 4) The Queen offering to the King the ambrosia of eternal life from a golden *bumpa*
3. Discuss links between Monarchy and Democracy in Bhutan. (4 marks)

Question FOUR:

Three most important goals that His Majesty the King [5th Druk Gyalpo] always emphasizes on, and strive to achieve for Bhutan are the *peace, security and prosperity, Gross National Happiness (GNH) and building a vibrant democracy*. How can, in your opinion, the Bhutanese government and people attain these national goals? (20 marks)

Question FIVE:

“Local Government is not the lowest Level of Government; it is the nearest and closest level of Government for our people. For rural Bhutanese, Local Governments are indispensable avenues for participation in democracy and development. In the long run, the success of democracy in Bhutan will be determined by the success of Local Governments.” (*His Majesty the Fifth King, Royal Address to Local Leaders, 12 July, 2011*)

1. Describe the general powers and functions of Local Governments. (4 marks)
2. Discuss the importance of the Local Governments to the success of democracy and development? (8 marks)
3. In your opinion, why should the local government remain apolitical and independent? Discuss at least three potential challenges for the autonomy and independence of local governments? (4+4 marks)

Part-B

Bhutan and its socio-economic development since 1961

Answer any **THREE** of the **SEVEN** questions in this part (*each question carries 20 marks*)

Question **ONE**:

Bhutan's socio-economic development is guided by the philosophy of 'maximization and realization of Gross National Happiness'.

1. What are the four pillars of Gross National Happiness? (4 marks)
2. Name and briefly explain the tool to capture the essence of Gross National Happiness developed by the Centre for Bhutan Studies (CBS) and discuss in brief any four domains which make up this tool? (2+4 marks)
3. In your opinion, should Bhutan's socio-economic development continue to be guided by the philosophy of 'maximization and realization of Gross National Happiness' or should Bhutan pursue the socio-economic development objective of maximizing 'Gross Domestic Product?' (10 marks)

Question **TWO**:

Discuss Bhutan's current socio-economic status with reference to achievements in the health and education indicators and macro-economic situation. (10+10 marks)

Question **THREE**:

The vision statement of Economic Development Policy of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2010 states 'To promote a green and self reliant economy sustained by an IT enabled knowledge society guided by the philosophy of GNH'.

1. What is your understanding of this vision statement? (10 marks)
2. What are the major challenges and opportunities that Bhutan faces in ensuring sustainable economic development? (5 + 5 marks)

Question FOUR:

Bhutan Poverty Analysis Report (PAR) 2007 estimated that 23.2 % of the population lived below the national poverty line, of which 98 % lived in rural areas.

1. How is Bhutan's national poverty line determined? (4 marks)
2. State the reasons for poverty in Bhutan being mainly a rural phenomenon? (6 marks)
3. Discuss the poverty reduction programmes implemented at local levels by government during the current 10th Five Year Plan? (10 marks)

Question FIVE:

1. Bhutan continues to depend on donor assistance to finance the socio-economic development programmes. During 2010-2011, about 43 % of the total expenditure was covered by grant. Suggest possible options to enhance domestic revenues and reduce donor dependence? (8 marks)
2. As per National Budget Report Financial Year 2011-2012, Ministry of Finance, June 2011, the total outstanding debt (*internal and external*) was Nu. 36,788.483 million as of 30th June 2010 representing 55 % of the GDP. Is the level of Bhutan's outstanding debt sustainable? Comment. (8 marks)
3. What are your views on the pegging of Bhutanese Ngultrum to Indian Rupees? (4 marks)

Question SIX:

According to the Labour Force Survey, 2010, unemployment was reduced from 4.0 % in 2009 to 3.3 % in 2010. While youth unemployment rate has gone down from 12.9 % in 2009 to 9.2 % in 2010, higher rates of unemployment are observed in the ages between 15-19 and 20-24.

1. What are the reasons for high levels of unemployment among the Bhutanese youths? (10 marks)
2. What strategies would you recommend to address this problem? (10 marks)

Question SEVEN:

The 11th Five Year Plan starts from 1st July 2013 and will end on 30th June 2018.

1. What, according to you, are the major socio-economic development challenges faced by Bhutan? (10 marks)
2. What strategies would you recommend to address these challenges in the 11th Five Year Plan? (10 marks)