

**ROYAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
BHUTAN CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION (BCSE) 2022
EXAMINATION CATEGORY: GENERAL**

PAPER II: ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Date	: October 8, 2022
Total Marks	: 100
Writing Time	: 3 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 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 must hand over the Answer Booklet to the Invigilator before leaving the examination hall.**
12. This paper has **7 printed pages**, including this instruction page.

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.

When disaster strikes (Ilan Kelman, October 5, 2021

(<https://engelsbergideas.com/essays/when-disaster-strikes/>)

Numerous synonyms exist for ‘disaster’, that is, when there are casualties, damage, and disruption: calamity, catastrophe, crisis, debacle, emergency, and tragedy, among others. Some have been defined and differentiated, rarely consistently, in academic books, glossaries, dictionaries, and laws. Even then, we struggle to translate and interpret the vocabulary and concepts across languages and cultures. A ‘disaster’ is perhaps best described as a situation requiring outside help. Something happens that cannot be dealt with, so assistance is needed. It applies to the individual and to the family – think house fires or vehicle crashes. It applies to countries and to continents, such as the North American power outages of 1965 and 2003; and it happens on a worldwide level, with pandemics such as 1918-1920 flu, and the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak. It could happen again, through space weather knocking out power grids and communication systems, for example, or via a major meteorite strike. While ‘a situation requiring outside help’ helps to define and describe a ‘disaster,’ it does not explain why disasters arise. The fundamental causes of disasters, important for exploring disaster trends, can be distant from the observed impacts.

Some disasters involve environmental phenomena, with prominent examples being volcanic eruptions, rainfall, heat and humidity, landslides, blizzards, and tsunamis. The scale of a disaster is not necessarily correlated with an environmental phenomenon’s size or impact.

Some people are easily able to evacuate from a hurricane or wildfire, for example, and then rebuild their home with insurance money. Others cannot afford to buy insurance or to evacuate; they might lose their job if they leave for a few days; or perhaps they do not have the physical or mental health to start again after losing everything. When a virus sweeps the world, some people are comfortable working from home and stockpiling food from occasional supermarket visits. Others must continue to commute, lack the cash to purchase large quantities of supplies, or experience violence at home. Some people are happy heading to a communal evacuation shelter for a few days after a tornado or chemical explosion, while others legitimately fear discrimination or assault.

These differences in people and places, not the environmental phenomenon itself, explain disaster causes. In December 2003, similar earthquakes rattled central California and southern Iran killing, respectively, two people and around 25,000 people. The disparity did not come from the tremors, but from the number of people and types of infrastructure shaken. Similarly, Bangladesh has long been a landfall zone for cyclones blowing off the Bay of Bengal. Perhaps half a million people died in a 1970 cyclone disaster, while storm disasters in 2020 and 2021 resulted in just dozens of fatalities. In the interim, extensive effort to prepare for cyclones was made, resulting in vastly improved knowledge, awareness, preparedness, evacuation, sheltering, and recovery.

Thus, describing a disaster must focus on society, not nature. The phrase ‘natural disaster’ is best avoided on the premise that disasters are not natural. They are caused by society’s actions and choices, typically giving some people opportunities and resources to avoid problems, while forcing many others to be vulnerable through poverty, marginalisation, and violence.

In other words, as is often said, earthquakes don’t kill people, collapsing infrastructure does. Infrastructure collapses because codes and regulations do not exist or are not enforced, while the people most affected retain few options to examine their seismic vulnerability or to improve their situation.

Question 1

Based on the description of disaster in the second paragraph, explain why the scale of a disaster is not necessarily correlated with an environmental phenomenon’s size or impact. **(10 marks)**

Question 2

What, according to the passage, causes disaster? **(10 marks)**

Question 3

Why is it suggested that the phrase ‘natural disaster’ be avoided? **(10 marks)**

Question 4

Based on the arguments presented in the passage, how can disasters be either averted or the scale minimized? **(10 marks)**

Section B: Topical Discussion [20 marks]

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

Question 1

Welcome to the summer from hell: 2022 is shaping up to be a season of disaster – and a preview of our future. (*www.grid.news*)

Given the global climate disasters being reported in 2022, what picture does the preview paint of our future? **(10 marks)**

Question 2

Beyond the suffering and humanitarian crisis from Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, the entire global economy will feel the effects of slower growth and faster inflation. (*How war in Ukraine is reverberating across the world’s regions, IMFBlog, March 15, 2022*)

How have we experienced the effects in Bhutan? **(10 marks)**

Question 3

Over the past few years, increasing number of Bhutanese are leaving the country and going abroad for reasons ranging from better employment and better pay to seeking higher education qualifications, amongst others. Does this trend translate to opportunities or concerns for Bhutan? **(10 marks)**

Question 4

In order to realize the vision, the civil service has to be grounded as a robust organization that is apolitical, meritorious, innovative, resilient, and driven by a culture of research and state-of-the-art technology, enabling legislations and indeed the highest ethical standards of its leaders and personnel. *(Royal Kasho on Civil Service Reform, December 17, 2020)*

How can Bhutanese graduates who join the civil service contribute to realizing the Royal Vision? **(10 marks)**

PART II

Section C: Subjective Questions [20 marks]

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

Question 1

As of Wednesday, 27 tourists have confirmed their visit under the new fee. Some have visited and left, some are in the country and some are on the way. *(The Signs are Good, Kuensel editorial, August 13, 2022)*

How optimistic or skeptical are you on the revised Sustainable Development Fee (SDF) meeting its objective of 'high value, low volume' tourism? **(10 marks)**

Question 2

Due to the increased instances of substance abuse among youth in Bhutan, random drug test for teachers and students is being initiated in schools. What is your assessment of this initiative towards curbing substance abuse among Bhutanese youth? **(10 marks)**

Question 3

Bhutan, which is still seen as a deeply traditional country across the world, will be sending a Miss Bhutan to the Miss Universe Pageant, who is openly Gay, of mixed ethnicity and despite losing both her parents at a young age, has achieved so much on her own terms. *(Breaking stereotypes and conventions: Miss Universe Bhutan, The Bhutanese, June 11, 2022)*

In your personal view, how does a gay Miss Universe Bhutan reflect on our society? **(10 marks)**

Question 4

The 2022 Bhutan Premier League (BPL) next month will witness international players in local clubs and the tournament is expected to become more competitive among the 10 teams. *(Clubs sign international players for 2022 BPL, Kuensel, July 20, 2022)*

We are seeing a gradual increase in the inclusion of international players by football clubs in Bhutan. Will the addition of players from outside Bhutan improve the game for Bhutan? **(10 marks)**

Section D: Multiple Choice Questions [20 marks]

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. Who, among the following personalities is the recipient of 2022 Blue Planet Prize along with His Majesty the fourth Druk Gyalpo?
 - a) Professor VeeraBhadran Ramanathan
 - b) Professor Stephen Carpenter
 - c) Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs
 - d) Professor Tilman

2. The clearest and most detailed image of the distant universe ever taken was released on July 11, 2022. Which telescope captured the images?
 - a) Subaru Telescope
 - b) Hubble Space telescope
 - c) Xuntian Space Telescope
 - d) James Webb Space Telescope

3. What is the largest nuclear power plant in Europe?
 - a) Rostov Nuclear Power Plant
 - b) Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant
 - c) Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant
 - d) Khmelnytskyi Nuclear Power Plant

4. Who received the 2021 Booker Prize?
 - a) Damon Galgut for The Promise
 - b) Joshua Cohen for The Netanyahus
 - c) Geetanjali Shree for Tomb of Sand
 - d) George Saunders for Lincoln in the Bardo

5. Which country was the first to give women the right to vote?
 - a) UK
 - b) USA
 - c) Finland
 - d) New Zealand

6. In chess, what direction can a bishop move?
 - a) Diagonally
 - b) Horizontally
 - c) Straight ahead
 - d) All directions

7. Which of these countries is a part of UK?
 - a) Sweden
 - b) Iceland
 - c) Norway
 - d) Scotland

8. When was the Domestic Violence Prevention Act of Bhutan enacted by the Parliament?
 - a) 2011
 - b) 2012
 - c) 2013
 - d) 2014

9. Who appoints the Drangpons of the Dungkhag Court?
 - a) His Majesty the King
 - b) The Prime Minister
 - c) The Chief Justice
 - d) The Dzongda

10. In which year did Bhutan make its debut in the Tokyo Paralympic Games?
 - a) 2019
 - b) 2020
 - c) 2021
 - d) 2022

11. World Water Day is celebrated every year on March 22. The theme line of World Water Day 2022 was
 - a) Groundwater: Making the invisible visible
 - b) The World's Water: Is there enough
 - c) Water and Climate Change
 - d) Valuing Water

12. Who received the 2022 UNESCO Peace Prize in recognition of efforts to welcome refugees?
 - a) Joe Biden
 - b) Narendra Modi
 - c) Angela Merkel
 - d) Volodymyr Zelenskyy

13. Which one of the following animals is known as the "Ghost of the Mountains"?
 - a) Yak
 - b) Snow Leopard
 - c) Brown bear
 - d) Himalayan Tahr

14. Which one of the following Je Khenpo of Bhutan is/was known as "Dragphugpa" (Cave Man) during his childhood as nickname?
 - a) His Holiness Tulku Jigme Chhoeda, the 70th Je Khenpo
 - b) Geshey Gendün Rinchen, the 69th Je Khenpo
 - c) Tenzin Doendrup, the 68th Je Khenpo
 - d) Ngawang Thinley Lhundup, the 67th Je Khenpo

15. Which one of the following Countries hosted the 75th Regional Committee Meeting (RCM) for South-East Asia of the World Health Organization (WHO) from September 5, 2022 to September 9, 2022?
- Thailand
 - Maldives
 - India
 - Bhutan
16. Paro Taktsang is a sacred Vajrayana Himalayan Buddhist site located in the cliffside of the upper Paro valley. Paro Taktsang can be seen in which one of the following Bhutanese currency notes?
- Five-Ngultrum note
 - Ten-Ngultrum note
 - Twenty-Ngultrum note
 - Fifty- Ngultrum note
17. Who is the author of “The History of the Decline and fall of the Roman Empire”?
- Herodotus
 - Holinshed
 - Macaulay
 - Edward Gibbon
18. A number one followed by one hundred zeros is known by what name?
- Googol
 - Megatron
 - Gigabite
 - Namonole
19. Which one of the following colours does not appear on the Olympic rings?
- Blue
 - Yellow
 - Black
 - Orange
20. Who, among the following is the first person belonging to the tribal community and also the second woman after Pratibha Patil to become President of India?
- Droupadi Murmu
 - Indira Gandhi
 - Kiran Bedi
 - Mary Kom