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རྒྱལ་གཞུང་གི་གཡོག་ལྷན་ཚོགས།

ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN  
ROYAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION



**BHUTAN CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION 2024**

**MAIN EXAMINATION**

**OCTOBER 4, 2024**

**CATEGORY: GENERAL**

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



**ROYAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION**  
**BHUTAN CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION (BCSE) 2024**  
**EXAMINATION CATEGORY: GENERAL**

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

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**Date** : October 4, 2024  
**Total Marks** : 100  
**Writing Time** : 3 hours  
**Reading Time** : 15 minutes (prior to writing time)

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**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Write your Registration Number clearly and correctly on the Answer Booklet. Failing to write a correct registration number shall lead to cancellation of paper.
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 has four sections:
  - ❖ Section A – Case Study;
  - ❖ Section B – Topical Discussion;
  - ❖ Section C – Subjective Questions; and
  - ❖ Section D – Multiple Choice Questions.
4. Specific instructions are provided under each Section separately. Please read the instructions carefully and answer the questions.
5. All answers should be written on the Answer Booklet provided to you. If required, ask for additional Answer Booklet.
6. **All answers should be written with correct numbering of the Section and Question Number in the Answer Booklet provided to you. Note that any answer written without indicating the correct Section and Question Number will NOT be evaluated.**
7. You are not permitted to tear off any sheet(s) of the Answer Booklet as well as the Question Paper.
8. Use of any other paper including paper for rough work is not permitted.
9. **You must hand over the Answer Booklet to the Invigilator before leaving the examination hall.**
10. This paper has **10 printed pages**, including this instruction page.

**GOOD LUCK!**

**SECTION A**  
**CASE STUDY [40 MARKS]**

**Read the article below and answer ALL four questions that follows. All the question carries 10 Marks each.**

**Write the SECTION and QUESTION NUMBER clearly while writing the answers.**

**AMID RISING MEDICAL REFERRALS, CAN PREVENTION OFFER RELIEF?**

*(Kuensel Issue June 1, 2024)*

Not finding a cure for the heart conditions, Nima suffered for months. The referral committee at the national referral hospital decided to send the 48 year old driver of a company to Kolkata, India, for treatment. He was among the first group of patients referred to Kolkata after the Covid-19 pandemic. Nima returned after nearly two weeks, cured. Today, he is literally a changed man. His health restored, he embraced a new lifestyle, forsaking his beloved pork and alcohol while adopting a healthier diet.

“I am very grateful to the government for sending me to a “big” hospital in India,” said Nima who remembers the medical bill he was handed over to submit to officials. “The government spent well over Nu 300,000 to treat me. They even paid me and my escort some money to cover daily needs.” The medical bill alone amounted to nearly twice Nima’s annual salary. Nima’s story is not unique. Many echo his sentiments, appreciating the free healthcare system that extends to costly referrals to prominent hospitals in India. From July of the previous year until April 2024, over 1,000 patients were referred abroad, predominantly to India, for various treatments—a number on the rise. Consequently, the financial burden on the government has escalated over time. Between 2021 and 2022, the health ministry spent about Nu 206.7 million on referral cases. It increased to Nu 501 million between 2022 and 2023, and to Nu 529.95 million from 2023 to April 2024. Cost of referrals increased by 154.3%, between 2021 and 2023. The total spending touched Nu 1.2 billion between 2021 and 2024. An additional Nu 80 to Nu 100 million is required till the end of June 2024.

**What medical cases are referred?**

Many of the patients referred are for cancer treatment, neurosurgery requirements, heart conditions, kidney diseases, hip and knee replacements, immune deficiency disorders, dental conditions, and other complicated diseases that require surgical procedures. According to officials from the National Medical Services, referrals typically occur when local facilities, like JDWNRH, lack the requisite infrastructure for treatment. Physicians refer patients following consultations with colleagues and departments. The final decision rests with the National Referral Committee, chaired by the Medical Superintendent. Health officials note a predominant trend: the surge in referral cases predominantly comprises diseases linked to lifestyle or non-communicable diseases (NCDs), alongside victims of severe accidents—many of which are preventable. On why referral cases are increasing every year, the former health minister and a public health specialist, Dasho Dechen Wangmo said that hospitals in the

country are not equipped with necessary equipment and expertise. Dasho Dechen Wangmo said it would be relatively easy for the government to invest in equipment, which could ease the burden of cost. “Buying equipment isn’t the only challenge. We do not have trained experts who can use the equipment,” Dasho added, “It takes years to build the capacity of a technician.” She also added that the country’s health system focuses on the primary health care (PHC) model and recognises the importance of emphasising prevention methods, as a high number of referral cases are patients suffering from non-communicable diseases (NCDs) or lifestyle diseases such as diabetes and hypertension, along with kidney or liver diseases, which are preventable. If NCDs are preventable, how much is spent on prevention to avoid referrals costing hundreds of thousands of Ngultums? The Department of Public Health (DoPH), officials said, that they carry out multiple initiatives to create awareness for the public on how NCDs or communicable diseases can be prevented.

The Director of DoPH, also said that the ministry is using every avenue possible to disseminate information to the public. “We share infographics on certain diseases from time to time through social media.” He added that advocacy and awareness, including simple information like the benefits of salt intake, the importance of early detections, screenings, and how NCDs could be prevented is an ongoing program. “We are always exploring new ideas and avenues with experts and international partners on how to deliver timely information to citizens and to ensure the remotest parts of the country are also reached,” Director said. He also shared that it is also a big responsibility on the part of the citizens to use the information effectively. “Our people should know how diseases can be prevented. It is something to be done together, as the government can only do so much.” Observers said that improved attention and budget on prevention could save the government millions, especially if NCD are the common cases referred. Some inside the health system, including doctors, said that the budget on prevention is too small to make an impact. Officials from the health ministry disagree. They said that the health promotion and disease prevention effort in the past three decades has seen healthy adoption of behaviours and practices among the general population.

As prevention has been highlighted as the most effective way to combat NCDs, the health ministry has allocated a budget to be pooled into carrying out prevention methods. The ministry had a capital budget of Nu 1 billion allocated for prevention in the 12th Plan. In the 13th FYP, a total budget of around Nu 5 billion has been proposed to focus on prevention. There has been an increase from the initial baseline of 15 percent to 30 percent for the 13th FYP, said officials. Officials also claim that latest medical technologies in hospitals like JDWNRH have effectively reduced referral cases. The first Cath Lab, which opened in September 2023, has significantly lowered referrals by providing timely interventions and treatments for heart patients, they said. Before its installation, over 100 patients were referred annually for heart problems, with more than 80 percent needing Cath Lab services. JDWNRH used to send 15 to 20 patients to India each month, but this has decreased to just three or four complex cases requiring open-heart surgery. The Cath Lab now performs procedures like angioplasty and angiograms and plans to have an open-heart surgery team by mid-2025, further reducing heart patient referrals.

**Question 1**

“...the surge in referral cases predominantly comprises diseases linked to lifestyle or non-communicable diseases (NCDs), alongside victims of severe accidents - many of which are preventable”.

Explain the significance of the above-mentioned statement - on the economic burden to the government caused due to the carelessness of the citizens. Mention three means that the government can undertake differently to reduce such surges. **(10 marks)**

**Question 2**

The 2021 WHO report states that the life expectancy of Bhutanese citizens in 2023 has reached at 74.9 years from 65.7 years in 2000.

According to the passage, what social, and economic impact will Bhutan face with the increase in life expectancy? How can the government take its responsibility to ease the burden of referral, and what duty can the citizens take to help the Nation in reducing the same? **(10 Marks)**

**Question 3**

What are the financial concern(s) highlighted in the passage caused due to the rise in the cases of referral? Mention those initiatives that the government has initiated to lower lifestyle-related diseases for our fellow Bhutanese citizens. **(10 Marks)**

**Question 4**

“Our people should know how diseases can be prevented. It is something to be done together, as the government can only do so much.” (Para 3).

What significant response do you want to suggest to the government as a younger generation on your approach to living responsibly? Do you think that allocating a huge amount of the annual budget could have a greater impact in having a healthy citizens? **(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.**

**Write the SECTION and QUESTION NUMBER clearly while writing the answers.**

**Question 1**

Bhutan's National Digital Identity (NDI) system recently received the "Special Award for Decentralised ID in practice" at the 2024 KuppingerCole European Identity and Clouds Award in Berlin. Discuss on the socioeconomic benefits that will offer to the government and citizens by integrating NDI system with government, financial institution, education and health system. **[10 marks]**

**Question 2**

"Pemagathsel's mango growers face marketing challenges amid rising production" – *BBS August 2024*  
"Garja Man Rai, a 79-year-old farmer in Woongchilo Chiwog of Tareythang Gewog, Sarpang, has begun harvesting mangoes and bananas from the million-fruit-tree plantation" - *Kuensel July 9<sup>th</sup> 2024*.  
The above two statement proves that Bhutan is gearing towards self-sufficiency in nutritious fruits and food production through the million-tree plantation project of the government. However, the excess production of fruits may get wasted.

Elaborate two means that the government can provide to the farmer in getting easy access to local and international markets? Discuss three means, how the citizen can take its role to grab this opportunity to become economically independent themselves? **[10 marks]**

**Question 3**

"In just over two weeks, more than 140 Bhutanese including those who have returned from abroad and those planning to return have registered with the National Reintegration Programme Desk" – *BBS*

What is your view on the above program initiated by the government? Will it affect on the overall unemployment issue that will inflict the government to create more job vacancies? Yes or No. Justify? **[10 marks]**

**Question 4**

With the drastic increase in the use of digital platforms, especially social media apps, hundreds of thousands of products and services are posted online, primarily on platforms like Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and Telegram.

Express your view on the importance of e-commerce. Highlight the advantages it will provide to both the seller and buyer, and point out its drawbacks that will bring to the buyer, and to the regulatory bodies? **[10 marks]**

**SECTION C:**  
**SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS [20 MARKS]**

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

**Write the SECTION and QUESTION NUMBER clearly while writing the answers.**

**Question 1**

Section 337 of the Road Safety and Transport Regulation 2021 states “A person shall stop a motor vehicle on the stop line to allow pedestrians to cross the road.”

In your opinion, is it feasible to station a Person (as stated above) on all stop line? Highlight the drawbacks of such regulation. Elaborate on how the safety of both the road users can be ensured. Can there be better ways that can be used to cross the road. How? **[10 marks]**

**Question 2**

In 2023 alone, 259 nurses resigned and currently, Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Referral Hospital (JDWNRH) has a shortage of over 380 nurses as per the standard requirement to maintain optimum service delivery.

Express how you foresee this shortages will affect in providing services within its minimum required standard? What measures and interventions would you propose to ensure that the services are provided with minimum disruption? Submit two recommendations to fill the gaps to ensure the services are provided as per the health standards. **[10 marks]**

**Question 3**

More than 25 countries have banned *TikTok* either fully or partially. Many South Asian Nations banned this media app in 2020.

Discuss the benefits, and affects it will bring to the social well-being of the citizens. Elaborate with reasons on how it will affect the security, privacy, harmony, and sovereignty of the country. **[10 marks]**

**Question 4**

The Fourth Parliament election of Bhutan saw the highest number of parties registered with the Election Commission of Bhutan for parliamentary election.

Identify and discuss five advantages and disadvantages of having more number of parties for a small country like 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. The following are NOT the Titles of the five Lopens of Zhung Dratshang, EXCEPT
  - a) Yarney Lopen
  - b) Tshogki Lopen
  - c) Tensung Lopen
  - d) Drungchen Lopen
  
2. The “Descending Day of Lord Buddha” observed on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of the Ninth Month of the Bhutanese calendar is also celebrated as:
  - a) Treltha Tshechu
  - b) Mother’s Day
  - c) Zorig Day
  - d) Teacher’s Day
  
3. The following Dzongkhags have Gyalsung Academy, EXCEPT
  - a) Wangduephodrang
  - b) Sarpang
  - c) Samtse
  - d) Tashigang
  
4. The following asian nations have banned TikTok, EXCEPT
  - a) Afghanistan
  - b) Nepal
  - c) Uzbekistan
  - d) Myanmar
  
5. The Ministry of Labor and Human Resources and relevant departments from the Ministry of Economic Affairs were merged to reform a new Ministry re-named as:
  - a) Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment
  - b) Ministry of Human Resource and Employment
  - c) Ministry of Economic, Labor, and Employment Affairs
  - d) Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport

6. The National Assembly has 47 seats for the Member of Parliament. Which among the following has three constituencies each?
  - a) Mongar and Tashigang
  - b) Tashigang and Pemagatshel
  - c) Mongar and Pemagatshel
  - d) Pemagatshel and Wangduephodrang
  
7. The latest visit to Bhutan by the Head of the Country was from
  - a) South Africa
  - b) Mongolia
  - c) Malaysia
  - d) Lesotho
  
8. In a cricket game, a “wicket” is counted as OUT if the batsman makes a LBW. LBW stands for
  - a) Longest Boundary Wicket
  - b) Leg Before Wicket
  - c) Level Ball Wicket
  - d) Left-hand Ball Wicket
  
9. The following agencies are established with the empowerment of The Constitution of The Kingdom of Bhutan EXCEPT
  - a) Royal Civil Service Commission
  - b) Royal Privy Council
  - c) Royal Audit Authority
  - d) Election Commission of Bhutan
  
10. In the 2024 Paris Olympics, the country that bagged the highest Bronze medal is
  - a) China
  - b) USA
  - c) France
  - d) Japan
  
11. Karma Phuntsho (PhD) from Bhutan, along with other four awardee from Thailand, Japan, and Indonesia will receive the 66<sup>th</sup> Ramon Magsaysay Award on November 16, 2024. From which country is the fourth awardee from?
  - a) Singapore
  - b) Myanmar
  - c) Laos
  - d) Vietnam

12. The cartoon character “Tom and Jerry” which was for MGM Media House was created by
- Oleg Kuzovkov
  - George Miller and Warren Coleman
  - Chris Wedge and David Brown
  - William Hanna and Joseph Barbera
13. To ease the process and to track the online systems, many applications uses QR codes to be scanned by users. What does QR stand for?
- Quick Report
  - Quick Response
  - Quick Receive
  - Quick Record
14. In the Paris 2024 Olympics, the lone Bhutanese runner completed the marathon in 3 hrs 58 minutes. What was her position when she completed the race?
- 76<sup>th</sup>
  - 77<sup>th</sup>
  - 80<sup>th</sup>
  - 91<sup>st</sup>
15. “Boxing Day” in football is observed on December 26 of every year. Why is it called Boxing Day?
- To observe a day with highest player sitting in the box.
  - To bring in the best players of the world together.
  - To fix matches throughout the day.
  - To encourage strong and energetic player to join new teams.
16. In MS Word, the shortcut key to “Select All” is
- Ctrl S
  - Ctrl A
  - Shift + S
  - Shift + A
17. The Royal Bhutan Police (RBP) was founded in 1965 on the command of The Third Druk Gyalpo. On which day do RBP celebrate it’s Raising Day?
- August 1<sup>st</sup>
  - September 1<sup>st</sup>
  - October 1<sup>st</sup>
  - November 1<sup>st</sup>

18. The National dress of Japan is known as
- a) Han Fu
  - b) Kimono
  - c) Han Bok
  - d) Ao Dai
19. A Bill passed by Parliament shall come into force upon Assent of the
- a) Speaker of National Assembly
  - b) Prime Minister
  - c) Druk Gyalpo
  - d) Chief Justice
20. India is bordered by Bhutan, China, Nepal and Pakistan towards north, and Bangladesh and Myanmar in the East. Which country shares the longest boundary with India?
- a) China
  - b) Bangladesh
  - c) Myanmar
  - d) Pakistan

**TASHI DELEK**