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རྒྱལ་གཞུང་གི་གཡོག་ལྷན་ཚོགས།

ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN
ROYAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION



BHUTAN CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION 2021

MAIN EXAMINATION

OCTOBER 31, 2021

CATEGORY: GENERAL

**PAPER III: Bhutan and its (a) Socio-political
Institutions and (b) Socio-economic
Development since 1961**

ROYAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
BHUTAN CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION (BCSE) 2021
EXAMINATION CATEGORY: GENERAL

PAPER III: BHUTAN AND ITS (a) SOCIO-POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS AND (b) SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS SINCE 1961

Date	: October 31, 2021
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 A: Bhutan and its socio-political institutions.
 - ❖ Part B: Bhutan and its socio-economic development since 1961.
4. Answer **Five** Questions in total as follows:
 - Two** Questions from **Part A**.
 - Three** Questions from **Part B**.
5. Answers will be evaluated based on knowledge of the subject, analytical skills, originality, and preciseness of your response.
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 and Question Number in the Answer Booklet provided to you. Note that any answer written without indicating the correct Part and Question Number will NOT be evaluated and no marks will be awarded.
8. Begin your answer to each Question 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 **5 printed pages**, including this instruction page.

GOOD LUCK!

PART A

BHUTAN AND ITS SOCIO-POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS [40 marks]

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

Question 1

- a) Ugyen Guru Rinpoche identified regions and mountain valleys in the Himalayas as sacred Beyul for Buddhism, and tradition maintains that Bhutan is among the most sacred and sanctified. What does Beyul mean to you and what explanations can you provide to affirm that Bhutan is the 'Auspicious Beyul'. Please justify. (10 marks)
- b) At the age of fifty eight, Zhabdrung Rinpoche (1594–1651) decided to retire from state affairs and enter into final retreat. He probably passed away not long after his entry into retreat but his death was kept a state secret for fifty-eight years till the year 1708. In your opinion, what could be plausible reason for keeping his death a state secret? Explain with specific reference to the country's security and problem of Zhabdrung's succession. (10 marks)

Question 2

- a) A scholar and religious person of great reputation, Longchen Rabjam (1306–64) stands out as prominent visitor to Bhutan among the Tibetan treasure discoverers. Elucidate some of the great works of Longchen Rabjam which subsequently had strong implications for the establishment of Nyingthig tradition in Bhutan. (10 marks)
- b) Bhutan can take pride in the numerous Drukpa religious masters who have appeared throughout its recorded history. One such master is Jamgon Ngawang Gyaltshen (1647–1732) whose legacy has proved enduring in numerous fields relating to religious, arts, crafts and ritual practices, diplomatic role and also institutionally through his family-based incarnation line and monastery. Discuss the most important legacies of Jamgon Ngawang Gyaltshen covering his unique diplomatic role in service to the Bhutanese state, namely that of "monk ambassador". (10 marks)

Question 3

- a) Among all the dzongs of Bhutan, Punakha Dzong is spiritually, culturally and politically the most important dzong in the history of Bhutan. In this regard, discuss the importance of Punakha Dzong with specific reference to its religious and political significance to the Bhutanese people. (10 marks)
- b) His Majesty the King said: "*I have seen many people describe democracy as a jewel gifted to the people from the Throne. I would say that rather than a gift, democracy is the responsibility given to the people to further strengthen the country...*" In the light of what His Majesty The King explained, discuss some of the duties and responsibilities of Bhutanese citizens that you think would be most important in democratic society to further strengthen our country. (10 marks)

Question 4

- a) A civil servant must be apolitical in service of the Tsa-Wa-Sum as per the Civil Service Values and Conduct. In your opinion, why should civil servants remain apolitical? Discuss some of the significant challenges faced and what do you think needs to be done to overcome those challenges. (10 marks)
- b) Article 2 (The Institution of Monarchy), clause 1 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan states that: "His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo is the Head of State and the symbol of unity of the Kingdom and of the people of Bhutan". Explain the role and importance of monarchy in strengthening and promoting the institution of democracy in Bhutan. (10 marks)

Question 5

- a) Patronage of the arts has been an undertaking of royal families in monarchical cultures. In Bhutan, Her Majesty the Grand Queen Mother, Kesang Choeden Wangchuck has always involved herself as a patron of important religious figures, monasteries, and rituals. Discuss some of Her Majesty's significant works which contributed towards improving the religious and socio-cultural life of the people of Bhutan. (10 marks)
- b) One of the most exciting and memorable moments of the 112th National Day was the announcement of institution of Gyalsung (National Service) for youths by His Majesty the King. In your opinion, how would Gyalsung benefit in providing direction and encouraging our youth to be strong, independent thinkers, capable of serving the Tsa-wa-sum. Please explain. (10 marks)

PART B

BHUTAN AND ITS SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SINCE 1961 [60 marks]

Answer any THREE of the seven questions from this part. (each question carries 20 marks)

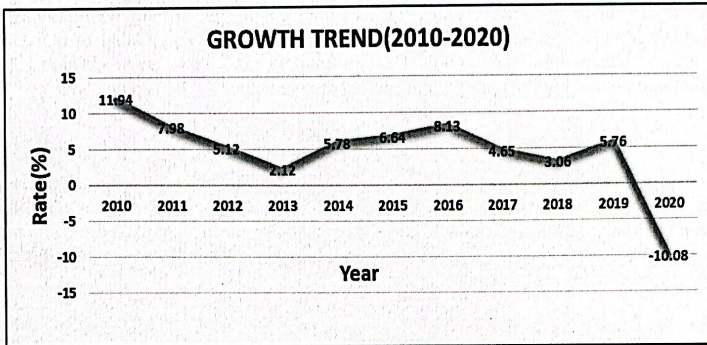
Question 1

Since 1961, socio-economic development activities have been planned and implemented based on a Five Year Plan (FYP) cycle. Currently, we are in the middle of the 12th FYP and the preparatory work for the 13th FYP is nowhere in sight. There are talks going around that the current Government plans to discontinue the practice of undertaking socio-economic development based on the FYP cycle.

Do you agree with the Government's plan of discontinuing the practice of undertaking socio-economic development based on the FYP cycle? Justify.

Question 2

Bhutan is one of the fastest growing economies in South Asia with an average growth rate of 6.12 percent for the period 2010-2019 (pre-pandemic). The pandemic has, however, disrupted the economy and the growth plummeted to an all-time low of -10.08% in 2020. Further, the economy inherently lacks diversification which is likely to impact the growth in the long run.



Data source: National Accounts Statistics 2021, National Statistics Bureau.

Suggest potential sectors/industries apart from hydropower and tourism that will diversify the economy as well as sustain the growth in the long run.

Question 3

The Round Table Meeting (RTM) was initiated in the early 1980s and is the highest forum for policy dialogue between Bhutan and its development partners. The Royal Government accords highest importance to RTM and is being held twice over the course of a Five Year Plan Period. The 15th RTM was held on 2nd September 2021.

Discuss the importance of RTM for Bhutan and its development partners.

Question 4

Bhutan has been successful in containing the spread of a full blown Covid-19 pandemic under the selfless and benevolent leadership of His Majesty The King. The pandemic has, however, disrupted the economy and adversely affected some of the key economic sectors.

Mention the the key economic sectors which are adversely affected by the pandemic? Please elaborate.

Question 5

Globally, e-commerce is an important aspect of digital economy and has increased exponentially in the recent years. It has a huge potential to rebound the economy decelerated by the pandemic. Bhutan has also observed an increase in e-commerce activities and the trend is likely to continue with advancement of information and communication technology.

What are the benefits and challenges of e-commerce compared to conventional mode of doing business? Should the Government regulate the conduct of e-commerce? Justify.

Question 6

In the recent years, the number of Bhutanese traveling abroad has increased manifold. It is estimated that more than 15,000 Bhutanese are currently abroad spread over almost all the countries. Some return to Bhutan, while others continue to stay abroad. The number of Bhutanese traveling or living abroad will inevitably increase in the coming years.

Discuss some of the impacts of this scenario on socio-economic development in Bhutan.

Question 7

Bhutan has been experiencing a negative balance of trade for the last many years. In 2020, the trade deficit increased by 6.28 percent against a drop of -34.36 percent in 2019.

Define the term 'Balance of Trade'. Suggest appropriate interventions to minimize the trade deficit.

TASHI DELEK