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རྒྱལ་གཞུང་གི་གཡོག་ལྷན་ཆེན་མོ།
ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN
ROYAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION



BHUTAN CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION 2024
MAIN EXAMINATION
OCTOBER 5, 2024

CATEGORY: GENERAL

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

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Date : October 5, 2024
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 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.**
7. You must hand over the Answer Booklet to the Invigilator before leaving the examination hall.
8. 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)

Write the PART, and QUESTION NUMBER clearly while answering. Any answer written without indicating the correct Part and Question Number will NOT be evaluated and no marks will be awarded.

Question 1

Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay recently issued executive order mandating that all government meetings and official correspondence be conducted in Dzongkha. Although similar orders to promote and use Dzongkha have been issued many times in the past, the Bhutanese preference for English has persisted, making the implementation of these policies challenging. Discuss some of the significant challenges faced and what, in your opinion, needs to be done to overcome those challenges.

(20 marks)

Question 2

a) The role of modern media is extremely crucial for the strengthening of the democratic process by educating the citizens on the various relevant issues. The media is expected to perform four basic functions: provider of information, interpreter of the events, initiator of public debate, and as a watchdog for the people. Discuss how, in your opinion, the Bhutanese Media is performing these functions in making Bhutan's democracy vibrant and sustaining. *(10 marks)*

b) Article 2, Clause 2 of The Constitution of The Kingdom of Bhutan states: "The *Choe-sid nyi* of Bhutan shall be unified in the person of the Druk Gyalpo who, as a Buddhist, shall be the upholder of the *Choe-sid*." In your opinion, what could be the possible rationale behind this clause? Explain. *(10 marks)*

Question 3

Lama Jangchub Tsonдру, root teacher of Jigme Namgyel, foretold, "The son born to Jigme Namgyel would establish hereditary rule in Bhutan." This reassuring divine prophecy came out to be true when Jigme Namgyel's son Ugyen Wangchuck became the First Hereditary Monarch of Bhutan. Discuss the events that led the people of Bhutan to choose and install Trongsa Penlop Ugyen Wangchuck as the First Hereditary Monarch of Bhutan. *(20 marks)*

Question 4

a) He is known as the 'Divine Madman' or the 'Maverick Saint' for his unorthodox teaching of Buddhism. He is a 'culture hero' around whom a web of stories, legends, facts and realities revolve. Discuss some of Choeje Drukpa Kunley's contributions that shaped the richness of religious, social and culture life of the Bhutanese people. *(10 marks)*

- b) His Majesty The King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck said, “*democracy is the renewed sense of duty and responsibility entrusted to the people to further strengthen the country...*”. In this context, explain some of the duties and responsibilities of Bhutanese citizens that you think would be most important in a democratic society to further strengthen our country. **(10 marks)**

Question 5

As suggested by anecdotal evidence as well as the results of GNH surveys, Bhutan’s customary value system such as social cohesion, community support networks, community self-help practices and sense of belongingness are fast declining in the face of modernization.

In light of this, enhancing social cohesion and strengthening community vitality are included as one of the priorities of the 13th Five Year Plan under security cluster. In this regard, assess how our customary value system of social cohesion and community vitality are changing and declining and then discuss how you can enhance and strengthen it. **(20 marks)**

PART B

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

Answer any **THREE** of the **FIVE** questions.

Write the PART, and QUESTION NUMBER clearly while answering. Any answer written without indicating the correct Part and Question Number will NOT be evaluated and no marks will be awarded.

Question 1

Bhutan is currently confronting a demographic challenge characterized by declining fertility rate, which has decreased from 6.6 births per woman in 1971 to 2.0 in recent years, falling below the replacement level of 2.1. Despite some recent positive trends and government's initiatives, reversing this decline is a multifaceted issue influenced by various socioeconomic factors.

- a) Critically examine the underlying causes, and potential consequences of Bhutan's declining fertility rate, and discuss its impact on the country's socioeconomic development. **(10 marks)**
- b) In your opinion, what effective measures could be implemented to address this demographic challenge? **(10 marks)**

Question 2

According to the National Statistics Bureau's first quarterly Labour Force Survey Report 2024, the youth unemployment rate has reached 22.9% in the first quarter of this year, an increase from the 15.9% in the previous quarter. Notably, the unemployment rate among young males is higher at 25.7% compared to 19.7% for young females.

- a. What are the potential socio-economic implications of the rising youth unemployment rate on the country's economic development? **(10 marks)**
- b. How might the gender disparity in youth unemployment affect social stability and economic growth in the long term? **(10 marks)**

Question 3

The 13th Five Year Plan (July 2024 to June 2029) has adopted a 10-year strategic framework to support the nation's long term goal of becoming a *High Income GNH Economy* by 2034 - driven by the interconnected pillars of people, progress and prosperity.

- a) Define and explain the concept "*High Income GNH Economy*" providing relevant examples? **(5 marks)**
- b) Analyse the potential factors that have led Bhutan to prioritise this ambitious goal in its development strategy. **(15 marks)**

Question 4

“The recommendation of National Assembly’s Economic and Finance Committee on the need to allocate Project Tied Assistance (PTA) and Small Development Project (SDP) resources to local governments using a Resource Allocation Formula has not been passed. Currently, this formula is exclusively utilised for block grant allocation. During the National Assembly session held on June 19, 2024, despite 21 members supporting the recommendation, 24 opposed it, making the recommendation ineffective.”

- a) What is your view on the necessity of allocating Project Tied Assistance (PTA) and Small Development Project (SDP) resources to local governments through a Resource Allocation Formula (RAF)? **(10 marks)**
- b) Discuss the potential advantages and disadvantages of implementing a Resource Allocation Formula (RAF) for Project Tied Assistance (PTA) and Small Development Projects (SDP) in Bhutan? **(10 marks)**

Question 5

According to the Public Debt Situation Report for Quarter ending June 30, 2024, the total public debt stock reached Nu 285 billion, reflecting a decrease of by almost 8 billion compared to the public debt stock of Nu 293 billion as of March 31, 2024. The debt comprises external debt of over Nu 263 billion and domestic debt of over 21 billion. External debt constitutes majority of the total debt at 92.5 percent.

- a) Discuss the implications of the Nu 8 billion reductions in total public debt stock between March 31, 2024 and June 30, 2024. What factors could have contributed to this decrease, and how might it impact our economic outlook? **(5 Marks)**
- b) Considering the external debt constitutes 92.5 percent of the total public debt as of June 30, 2024, discuss the potential risks and challenges this high dependency on external debt poses for the country. How should the government address these challenges to ensure long term economic stability? **(15 marks)**

TASHI DELEK