

ROYAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
BHUTAN CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION (BCSE) 2025
EXAMINATION CATEGORY: TECHNICAL

PAPER II: GENERAL SUBJECT KNOWLEDGE PAPER FOR CONSERVATOR

Date	: October 10, 2025
Total Marks	: 100
Writing Time	: 90 minutes (1.5 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 to check the number of pages of Question Paper, printing errors, clarify doubts and to read the instructions. You are NOT permitted to write during this time.
3. This paper consists of **TWO Parts: Part I & Part II**
Part I consists of 70 multiple choice questions of 1 (one) mark each, and
Part II consists of 9 short answer questions. Choose only 6 questions.
4. 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.
5. **All answers should be written with correct numbering of 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.**
6. Begin each Part in a fresh page of the Answer Booklet.
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/s to the Invigilator before leaving the examination hall.**
10. This paper has **11 printed pages**, including this instruction page.

GOOD LUCK

PART I

Multiple Choice Questions [70 marks]

Choose the correct answer and write down the letter of your chosen answer in the Answer Booklet against the question number e.g. 71 (a). Each question carries ONE mark. Any double writing, smudgy answers or writing more than one choice shall not be evaluated.

1. Which of the following is an ethical obligation of a conservator?
 - a) Speed over documentation
 - b) Reversibility of treatment
 - c) Permanent alteration
 - d) Total restoration of missing parts

2. A condition report is typically prepared:
 - a) After conservation only
 - b) When displaying objects
 - c) Before and after loans or treatments
 - d) During inventory checks only

3. What is the first step in acquiring a new object into a collection?
 - a) Curatorial approval
 - b) Accessioning
 - c) Insurance
 - d) Valuation

4. Who is primarily responsible for maintaining collections records?
 - a) Gallery assistant
 - b) Director
 - c) Front desk staff
 - d) Collections manager

5. Which document legally records ownership transfer of an object?
 - a) Condition report
 - b) Deed of gift
 - c) Loan agreement
 - d) Accession record

6. Inventory in museums is:
 - a) A funding report
 - b) A marketing tool
 - c) A complete list of all collections
 - d) A list of missing items

7. Which field in a collection record is essential?
 - a) Object condition
 - b) Artist's biography
 - c) Personal opinions
 - d) Entry ticket revenue

8. What is an accession number?
 - a) Security code
 - b) Unique identifier for a collection item
 - c) Object size
 - d) Material type

9. The purpose of cataloging is to:
 - a) Sell objects
 - b) Organize ticket sales
 - c) Provide detailed object descriptions
 - d) Promote exhibitions

10. A master list of all objects in a collection is called:
 - a) Ledger
 - b) Catalog
 - c) Register
 - d) Inventory

11. What is the main purpose of digitization in collections?
 - a) Increase physical storage
 - b) Provide online access and preservation
 - c) Improve ticketing systems
 - d) Enable e-commerce

12. Who typically approves high-value acquisitions in a museum?
 - a) Guards
 - b) Conservators
 - c) Board or acquisition committee
 - d) Visitors

13. The best place to store collection records is:
 - a) On paper only
 - b) In secure physical and digital formats
 - c) In open folders
 - d) In public galleries

14. Which of the following helps ensure accurate collection tracking?
 - a) Random inspections
 - b) Loan agreements
 - c) Barcode or RFID tagging
 - d) Lighting checks

15. Loan documentation includes:
 - a) Loan agreements and insurance details
 - b) Object recipes
 - c) Ticket sales
 - d) Artist payments

16. Which of the following is not typically included in a condition report?
- Object description
 - Loan terms
 - Damage notes
 - Photographs
17. Relative humidity should ideally be maintained at:
- 90–95%
 - 30–35%
 - 45–55%
 - 10–15%
18. Which is NOT a preventive conservation measure?
- Structural restoration
 - Fire safety systems
 - Pest control
 - Stable storage environment
19. Museum pests include all except:
- Silverfish
 - Termites
 - Carpet beetles
 - Earthworms
20. Which material is most sensitive to humidity?
- Ceramic
 - Textile
 - Stone
 - Metal
21. Light damage is particularly severe for:
- Bronze sculptures
 - Painted walls
 - Wooden masks
 - Paper, textile, and photographs
22. How can pests be detected early in a museum?
- Using light sensors
 - Conducting audience surveys
 - Using sticky traps and inspections
 - Painting galleries
23. What is the function of silica gel in storage?
- Pest repellent
 - Humidity control
 - Cleaning agent
 - Flame retardant

24. Integrated Pest Management focuses on:
- Killing all pests immediately
 - Biological collections
 - Monitoring and non-toxic controls
 - Using pesticides regularly
25. Which of the following should NOT be used in storage?
- Acid-free tissue
 - Wooden boxes with no sealant
 - Archival-quality boxes
 - Mylar sleeves
26. Microclimate control is often used in:
- Ticket counters
 - Display cases for sensitive materials
 - Outdoor exhibits
 - Museum gardens
27. The ideal light level for paper-based items is:
- 1000 lux
 - 500 lux
 - 50 lux
 - 100 lux
28. Which of the following materials is most vulnerable to oxidation?
- Metal
 - Textile
 - Ceramic
 - Stone
29. Fluctuating environmental conditions can cause:
- Better visitor experiences
 - Cracking, warping, and mold
 - Increased security
 - Staff fatigue
30. Best practice for cleaning display cases is:
- Daily with soap
 - Monthly with water
 - Regularly with appropriate dry methods
 - Annually with oils
31. Which of the following is a major pollutant in museums?
- Sulfur dioxide
 - Carbon monoxide
 - Oxygen
 - Inert gases

32. Relative humidity below 30% can cause:
- Mold growth
 - Rusting
 - Drying and cracking
 - Insect infestation
33. Buffer zones in museum buildings help with:
- Environmental stabilization
 - Visitor parking
 - Emergency exits
 - Object tagging
34. Which principle requires that all conservation work be undoable?
- Minimalism
 - Reversibility
 - Efficiency
 - Transparency
35. The Royal Heritage Museum of Bhutan is located in:
- Thimphu
 - Paro
 - Bumthang
 - Trongsa
36. Conservation of sacred objects must also consider:
- Only scientific values
 - Legal ownership
 - Age of the item
 - Ritual significance and community consultation
37. Which Bhutanese authority regulates cultural heritage?
- NEC
 - Department of Culture & Dzongkha Development
 - MoEA
 - Ministry of Labour
38. Which material is used in traditional Bhutanese mural painting?
- Natural earth pigments
 - Acrylic
 - Oil
 - Synthetic dyes
39. Which of the following is NOT an ethical principle in conservation?
- Documentation
 - Reversibility
 - Irreversible alteration
 - Minimum intervention

40. Who must often be consulted before treating sacred artifacts in Bhutan?
- Tour guides
 - Monastic representatives or lams
 - Insurance agents
 - Art dealers
41. In Bhutan, heritage sites are considered:
- Tourist zones
 - Ruins
 - Living cultural spaces
 - Commercial centers
42. What is a "Salvage Priority List" in a Disaster Management Plan?
- Budget allocation sheet
 - Ranking of collections by cultural and conservation value for rescue
 - List of pest control chemicals
 - Emergency contacts only
43. Which of the following is a key component of emergency preparedness?
- Audio guides
 - First-aid training
 - Climate survey
 - Catalog publication
44. The most appropriate first step when a flood threatens museum collections is:
- Remove objects to a secure dry area
 - Turn off lights
 - Inform the media
 - Close ticket counters
45. The "Triangle of Fire" includes:
- Fuel, oxygen, heat
 - Water, electricity, fuel
 - Smoke, light, gas
 - Flame, object, person
46. Cellulose-based materials (e.g., paper and textiles) degrade mainly due to:
- Microbial activity
 - Photochemical reactions
 - Acid hydrolysis
 - Salt accumulation
47. Which of the following is the primary purpose of a museum?
- Entertainment
 - Preservation and education
 - Commercial trade
 - Tourism only

48. Copper artifacts commonly develop a green layer called:
- Tannin
 - Carbonate
 - Patina
 - Silicate
49. Which type of pest is most destructive to ethnographic textiles?
- Silverfish
 - Carpet beetles
 - Termites
 - Moths
50. What accelerates corrosion in iron artifacts?
- Fluctuating RH and chlorides
 - Constant freezing
 - Humidity below 30%
 - Strong light
51. Which chemical is used to detect acidic degradation in paper?
- Acetone
 - Ethanol
 - pH indicator (methyl orange or phenolphthalein)
 - Vinegar
52. Minimum intervention in conservation means:
- Using modern synthetic coatings
 - Avoiding unnecessary treatment
 - Fully restoring damaged objects
 - Always replacing missing parts
53. Which international body developed the 1970 Convention on cultural property?
- ICOMOS
 - UNHCR
 - ICCROM
 - UNESCO
54. What should be included in a conservation treatment report?
- Steps taken, materials used, and photographs
 - Artist biography
 - Visitor numbers
 - Loan history
55. Which type of pest is most destructive to ethnographic textiles?
- Silverfish
 - Carpet beetles
 - Termites
 - Moths

56. Ethics in conservation require:
- Secrecy of treatments
 - Artistic interpretation
 - Transparency and documentation
 - Fast treatments only
57. Which document is referred to for the ethical return of looted cultural objects?
- Paris Protocol
 - UNESCO 2003 Convention
 - Hague Convention
 - UNESCO 1970 Convention
58. Bhutanese textiles are often dyed with:
- Synthetic dyes only
 - Vegetable and mineral dyes
 - Animal blood
 - Plastic-based pigments
59. When handling fragile textiles, one must:
- Wear gloves and use support trays
 - Fold tightly for storage
 - Use plastic wrap
 - Wash before display
60. The best way to store sacred textiles long-term is:
- Hanging in direct light
 - Sealed in airtight plastic
 - Rolled on acid-free tubes in low light
 - Folded in wooden cabinets
61. In digitization, which of the following is most important?
- Color correction
 - Physical handling care and metadata entry
 - Selling online
 - Increasing ticket sales
62. Which documentation system is most commonly used in museums for collections management?
- SWOT
 - TMS
 - ISO
 - CMS

63. The ideal temperature range for most museum storage is:
- a) 0–5°C
 - b) 10–18°C
 - c) 18–22°C
 - d) 25–30°C
64. Which of the following is a preventive conservation method?
- a) Humidifying a painting
 - b) Using a conservation-grade mount board
 - c) Repainting flaked areas
 - d) Reweaving damaged textile areas
65. A digital Collections Management System (*CMS*) helps museums to:
- a) Display virtual exhibitions only
 - b) Store visitor data
 - c) Track, document, and manage collections efficiently
 - d) Print tickets
66. UV light exposure primarily affects:
- a) Stone
 - b) Metal
 - c) Ceramics
 - d) Organic materials like textiles and paper
67. Ta Dzong, which houses the National Museum, is historically significant because:
- a) It is the oldest palace in Bhutan
 - b) It served as a watchtower and has unique architecture
 - c) It is the seat of government
 - d) It was built by foreign conservators
68. The best way to store sacred textiles long-term is:
- a) Rolled on acid-free tubes in low light
 - b) Sealed in airtight plastic
 - c) Hanging in direct light
 - d) Folded in wooden cabinets
69. Conservation of thangkas often requires:
- a) Retouching the paint
 - b) Minimal handling and stabilized storage
 - c) Removing silk covers
 - d) Framing under glass
70. Bronze disease in metal artifacts is caused by:
- a) Fungus growth
 - b) Copper chlorides and moisture
 - c) Dust accumulation
 - d) High temperature

PART II

Short Answer Questions [30 marks]

From the 9 short answer questions below, answer ONLY 6 questions. Each question carries 5 marks.

1. Explain the principle of preventive conservation with two practical examples.
2. What are the main components of a Conservation Guideline Policy, and why are they important?
3. Define Collections Management Policy and outline its key impacts on museum operations.
4. Explain how environmental factors (temperature, humidity, light) affect collections.
5. Describe the key components of a Conservation Guideline Policy and its impact on the long-term preservation of museum collections.
6. Outline the steps involved in assessing and treating a fragile textile object in a heritage museum. Include ethical considerations.
7. What are the essential elements of a Disaster Management Plan for museums, especially those housed in heritage buildings like Ta Dzongs?
8. Discuss the role of preventive conservation in museum collections care. Give examples relevant to Bhutan's climate and materials.
9. Explain the importance of documentation in conservation treatments. How does it support accountability and future decision-making?

TASHI DELEK