

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

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

Date : October 11, 2025
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 **Four** questions from this Part. (Each question carries 20 marks)

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

PART A

QUESTION 1

- a) *“The Constitution of The Kingdom of Bhutan was introduced by His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo, Jigme Singye Wangchuck as a visionary initiative to transition the nation into a democratic Constitutional Monarchy.”*

As a proud and informed citizen, how would you present the distinct and visionary features of Bhutan’s Constitution at an international seminar? You may support your response with relevant comparisons to the constitution of another country. **10 Marks**

- b) *“Dzongs are monumental structures that symbolize Bhutan’s cultural and spiritual heritage. Their construction has evolved over time, reflecting changing purposes influenced by historical, religious, and political contexts.”*

Analyse how the purpose and significance of dzongs differ across three key periods in Bhutanese history: the pre-Zhabdrung era, the Zhabdrung era, and the modern period. What do these differences reveal about the evolving priorities and identity of Bhutan? **10 Marks**

QUESTION 2

- a) *“Druk Gyalpo Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck is revered as the People’s King for his unwavering commitment to the well-being of Bhutanese citizens through unparalleled Kidu initiatives.”*

Express three Kidu initiatives undertaken by His Majesty The Druk Gyalpo Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck. In your analysis, discuss the benefits of these initiatives on Bhutanese society and reflect on how, as a citizen, can contribute to sustaining and upholding His Majesty’s love and care to its citizens. **10 Marks**

- b) *“The unique national identity created by Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel makes us nationally united and culturally rooted, fostering a strong sense of belonging and pride being a Bhutanese.”*

In reference to this, what roles can you play as a citizen, to help Bhutan promote its cultural values, language, and traditions in the modern era to help preserve and promote our national identity? **10 Marks**

QUESTION 3

- a) *“Bhutan has been referred to by various names throughout history, each reflecting significant historical, cultural, or religious contexts. The country’s rich tradition of toponymy reveals how Bhutanese and their neighbours perceived and conceptualized the land over time. Place names across the country often carry deep meanings rooted in local beliefs, historical events, or spiritual associations.”*

In light of this, discuss the FIVE ancient names attributed to Bhutan, and discuss how this names (toponyms) within Bhutan reflect its historical and religious narratives. Support your answer with relevant examples. **10 Marks**

- b) *“The future is neither unseen nor unknown. It is what we make of it. What work we do today with our two hands will shape the future of our nation. Our children’s tomorrow has to be created by us today.”* Druk Gyalpo Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck.

As a youth of Bhutan, how can you contribute to shaping a future that is both sustainable, rooted in national values while also addressing the evolving challenges of the modern world? **10 Marks**

QUESTION 4

- a) “The 2007 revision of the Bhutan-India Friendship Treaty fundamentally transformed Bhutan’s foreign policy autonomy. This crucial change significantly shaped Bhutan’s identity as a sovereign nation.” Do you agree? Justify your answer. **10 Marks**

- b) If the feudal system of governance had persisted in Bhutan, how might have the country’s political and economic development unfolded? In your response, critically examine the potential implications of feudal rule by considering structural challenges, leadership instability, and the influence of regional powers on Bhutan's sovereignty and development. **10 Marks**

PART B

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

Answer any **THREE** of the **FIVE** questions. Each question carries 20 Marks

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

PART B

QUESTION 1

The National Assembly on June 16, 2025 has adopted the Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, reducing the GST rate to 5 percent on taxable goods and services, with implementation set for January 1, 2026.

- a. *How might the reduction of GST to 5 percent impact government revenue, consumer prices, and the competitiveness of businesses in Bhutan?* **(10 Marks)**
- b. *To what extent can this tax reform contribute to Bhutan's broader development goals, such as sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction, and social equity?* **(10 Marks)**

QUESTION 2

In the 13th Five Year Plan the Agriculture and Renewable Natural Resource (RNR) sector in Bhutan aims to increase its contribution to the national GDP from Nu. 31 billion to Nu. 50 billion by the year 2029.

- a) *Why is this target important for Bhutan's economy and self-reliance?* **(5 marks)**
- b) *What challenges the sector may face in achieving this goal?* **(7 marks)**
- c) *What strategies or innovations could help realize this vision?* **(8 marks)**

QUESTION 3

Currently, around 66,000 Bhutanese, which is 8.5% of the population, reside overseas. This group represents a critical segment of the workforce. Possessing good education and valuable skills across various sectors. Addressing workforce migration has become a national priority.

Critically analyze and pen down your thoughts on the following elements;

- a) *The possible reasons behind the increasing migration of Bhutanese workers.* **(5 marks)**
- b) *The socio-economic impacts this trend may have on the country* **(5 marks)**
- c) *Practical strategies Bhutan can adopt to retain and reintegrate skilled human capital* **(10 marks)**

QUESTION 4

According to the National Statistical Bureau, the projections show that the population of Bhutan will continue to increase but at a slower pace than in the recent past. The resident population is projected to reach 884 thousand by 2047, staying well below the one million mark. Bhutan has been experiencing steep fertility decline in the recent past and it is expected to remain below replacement level in the foreseeable future. The birth rate will decline substantially to 11 per thousand and the annual growth rate will fall from the current level of 1 percent to less than 0.3 percent in 2047.

- a) What are the possible causes of declining fertility and population growth in Bhutan?(6 marks)*
- b) How might these demographic changes affect the country's economic development, workforce, and social systems?(8 marks)*
- c) What policies or strategies can the government adopt to manage the challenges and opportunities of a slow-growing population? (6 marks)*

QUESTION 5

On 23rd July, 2025 the Government launched a new concessional education loan scheme under the Economic Stimulus Plan (ESP), aiming to provide financial aid for Class XII graduates from disadvantaged economic backgrounds seeking to pursue tertiary or vocational courses.

- a) What do you understand by Economic Stimulus Plan (ESP)? Why is ESP introduced at this stage in our country? (7 marks)*
- b) Critically analyse the impact that this concessional education loan scheme may have in our society, and highlight both opportunities and possible implementation challenges of this scheme. (13 marks)*

TASHI DELEK