

English Language Proficiency Test

PSC Recruitment 8 July 2026

Post: Office Superintendent

Maximum Time: 3 hours

Maximum Marks: 80

Instructions:

- The paper consists of four sections: A, B, C, D & E
- Read the instructions provided to each question carefully.
- Attempt all questions.
- Write the correct question number in your answer sheet to indicate the option/s being attempted.

SECTION A: WRITING (30 Marks)

1. An independent researcher approaches your office requesting access to confidential historical welfare registries. While the study may benefit the community in the long run, the researcher fails to produce any official authorization letter. Your supervising official verbally directs you to bypass the protocol, saying, "It's fine, just let him look through the files." You subsequently learn that the researcher is a close relative of that supervising official. Write an internal memorandum addressed to your department's leadership. Respectfully decline to release the records without formal authorization, justifying your stance based on data ethics, administrative accountability, and standard operating procedures. (Around 250 words) (10 Marks)
2. Write an essay on how individual civic responsibility, community service, and professional dedication within Tibetan settlements are practical expressions of Tibetan patriotism. (10 Marks)
3. Write an essay on any one of the following topics. (10 Marks)
 - Write a short overview of the decades-long dialogue between His Holiness the Dalai Lama and modern scientists regarding mental well-being.
 - The role of the Department of Education in monitoring educational quality based on His Holiness the Dalai Lama's vision of combining ancient wisdom with modern science.

SECTION B: READING COMPREHENSION (20 Marks)

Focus: Linear reading comprehension, data retrieval, and operational sequencing.

Topic: The Socio-Economic Transformation and Engineering Feats of the Qinghai-Tibet Railway.

Reading Passage: The completion of the Qinghai-Tibet Railway in 2006 marked a monumental milestone in modern civil engineering and state-led infrastructure development. Extending across 1,956 kilometers from Xining in Qinghai Province to Lhasa in the Tibet Autonomous Region, this colossal transport artery represents the world's highest and longest plateau railroad. For decades,

Western and domestic engineers deemed the construction of a railway across the hazardous, high-altitude terrain of the Tibetan Plateau an absolute impossibility. The project confronted three seemingly insurmountable physical barriers: the widespread presence of unstable permafrost, the profound lack of atmospheric oxygen at extreme elevations, and the highly fragile, ecologically sensitive alpine ecosystem.

The permafrost presented the most volatile engineering challenge. Approximately 550 kilometers of the tracks had to be laid directly over permafrost terrain, which naturally experiences a cyclical process of freezing solid in winter and thawing into mud during summer. Had standard railway construction techniques been deployed, the seasonal shifting of the ground beneath the tracks would have caused catastrophic buckling, derailments, and track warping. To counteract this, engineers designed a multi-pronged thermodynamic stabilization strategy. They installed over 10,000 thermosiphons-hollow, carbon-steel tubes filled with liquid ammonia inserted deep into the ground along the rail embankments. During winter, the ammonia vaporizes at the bottom of the tube, rises to the top to release its heat into the cold air, condenses back into liquid, and flows downward. This continuous, passive cycle extracts heat from the ground, keeping the subsoil perpetually frozen throughout the warmer summer months. Additionally, ventilated embankments made of loose, coarse stone fragments were constructed to allow cooling winds to circulate freely beneath the track bed, further isolating the permafrost from solar radiation.

To address the severe lack of oxygen, which drops to nearly half of sea-level density at the railway's highest point-the Tanggula Pass at 5,068 meters - all passenger carriages are fully pressurized and airtight, functioning similarly to commercial aircraft. The trains feature two built-in oxygen supply systems: a centralized system that elevates the oxygen concentration of the entire carriage air supply to roughly 23 %, and individual access ports located at every seat and sleeper berth for passengers experiencing acute altitude sickness.

The economic and social repercussions of this railway have been profound and polarizing. Prior to its construction, cargo transit into Tibet was restricted to treacherous, slow-moving highway networks, which were frequently blocked by winter blizzards and summer landslides. The railway immediately slashed cargo transport costs by over 70 %, unlocking an unprecedented boom in trade and industrial logistics. Commodities, construction materials, and manufactured goods from mainland China flooded into Lhasa, drastically reducing the cost of living for urban residents.

Conversely, this hyper-connectivity has rapidly transformed the demographic and cultural fabric of Tibet. Lhasa has morphed from a isolated, spiritually oriented enclave into a bustling, urbanized economic hub dominated by services, hospitality, and mass tourism. In 2019 alone, the region welcomed tens of millions of tourists, mostly domestic travelers arriving via the low-cost railway. While this influx has created thousands of hospitality jobs and generated substantial revenue for local state-owned enterprises, it has simultaneously placed immense strain on the local infrastructure. The sheer volume of waste generated by tourism threatens the region's pristine water tables, while rising property values have forced many traditional Tibetan shopkeepers out of the historic Barkhor circuit. Traditional pastoral lifestyles are fading as younger generations of Tibetans migrate to urban centers, trading nomadic herding for cash economies in the tourism and retail sectors. Thus, while the railway stands as an indisputable triumph of modern technological application, it simultaneously serves as an accelerator of irreversible socio-cultural change.

Questions (Total: 20 Marks)

1. **Technical Retrieval (4 Marks):** Describe exactly how a thermosiphon functions to prevent the permafrost from thawing beneath the railway tracks.
2. **Data-Driven Inference (4 Marks):** According to the passage, what was the exact quantitative impact of the railway on cargo transit costs, and what are two specific environmental or economic challenges resulting from the subsequent tourism boom?
3. **Vocabulary in Context (4 Marks):** Based on how they are used in the final paragraph, explain what the author means by the words "*hyper-connectivity*" and "*polarizing*".
4. **Analytical Essay (8 Marks):** Evaluate whether the author views the Qinghai-Tibet Railway as a positive or negative development. Write a balanced response (100–120 words) citing evidence from both the engineering achievements and the socio-cultural impacts mentioned in the text.

SECTION C: GRAMMAR (10 Marks)

1. Choose the correct answer from the options below. (5 Marks)

1. If I _____ enough money, I would buy a new laptop.
 - (A) have
 - (B) had
 - (C) will have
 - (D) had had
2. She has been waiting _____ two hours.
 - (A) since
 - (B) from
 - (C) for
 - (D) by
3. Neither my brother nor my parents _____ at home.
 - (A) is
 - (B) was
 - (C) are
 - (D) has
4. We were tired, _____ we decided to take a break.
 - (A) because
 - (B) but
 - (C) so
 - (D) although
5. The teacher asked the students _____ their assignments on time.
 - (A) submit
 - (B) submitted
 - (C) to submit
 - (D) submitting

2. Fill in each blank with the most appropriate grammatical form. (5 Marks)

1. By the time I reached the station, the train _____ (leave).
2. If you _____ (study) regularly, you will do well in the exam.
3. She enjoys _____ (read) historical novels.
4. They _____ (live) in this town since 2018.
5. Either the teacher or the students _____ (be) responsible for arranging the chairs.

SECTION D: GENERAL KNOWLEDGE (10 Marks)

1. The Middle Way Approach can best be described as:

- A. Seeking full independence through referendum
- B. Seeking genuine autonomy through dialogue and non-violence
- C. Supporting armed resistance
- D. Rejecting negotiations

2. Which CTA department administers Tibetan settlements?

- A. Department of Home
- B. DIIR
- C. Department of Education
- D. Department of Security

3. The Offices of Tibet function most similarly to:

- A. Commercial banks
- B. Cultural museums
- C. Representative offices of the CTA abroad
- D. Immigration offices

4. Which of the following is a major responsibility of DIIR?

- A. Building roads
- B. Disseminating information on Tibet internationally
- C. Collecting taxes
- D. Managing monasteries

5. Which principle is NOT associated with the Middle Way Approach?

- A. Dialogue
- B. Non-violence
- C. Genuine autonomy
- D. Armed struggle

6. The UN Security Council has primary responsibility for:

- A. International trade
- B. International peace and security
- C. Climate negotiations

D. Tourism promotion

7. Which organization promotes global trade rules?

- A. WTO
- B. UNESCO
- C. WHO
- D. NATO

8. Brazil is scheduled to host the G20 Leaders' Summit in:

- A. 2024
- B. 2025
- C. 2026
- D. 2027

9. NATO was originally formed in:

- A. Asia
- B. Europe and North America
- C. Africa
- D. South America

10. Which institution primarily provides financial assistance for development projects?

- A. IMF
- B. World Bank
- C. NATO
- D. OECD

SECTION E: TRANSLATION (10 Marks)

Translate **Article 20** of the PRC's 'Ethnic Unity and Progress Law' into English.

དོན་ཚན་ཉི་ཤུ་པ། མི་དམངས་སྲིད་གཞུང་རིམ་བཞག་གིས་ཀྱང་རྩིས་ཤིག་གིས་མཐུན་ཆོག་པའི་འདུ་ཤེས་བརྟན་
པོར་སྦྱོར་བའི་སྒྲུབ་བྱ་དེ་བྱིས་ཆང་དང་། བྱིས་ཆང་སློབ་གསོ། བྱིས་སློབ་བཅས་ཀྱི་འཕྲུག་སྦྱོར་ནང་འདྲེས་བར་སྦྱུང་འདེད་
གཏོང་དགོས། འོ་ན་མ་སོན་པའི་སྦྱོར་བའི་མཐུན་ཆོག་སྦྱོང་བ་གཞན་དག་གིས་བྱིས་ཆང་སྦྱོར་གསོའི་འགན་འཁུར་
བ་དང་། འོ་ན་མ་སོན་པའི་སྦྱོར་བའི་ཀྱང་གོའི་ཀྱང་ཁུན་ཏང་ལ་དགའ་ཞེན་དང་། མེས་རྒྱལ་ལ་དགའ་ཞེན། མི་དམངས་ལ་དགའ་
ཞེན། ཀྱང་རྩིས་ཤིག་ལ་དགའ་ཞེན་བཅས་བྱ་རྒྱུའི་སློབ་གསོ་དང་བྱིས་སྦྱོར་བྱེད་བ་དང་། ཀྱང་རྩིས་ཤིག་བྱིས་ཆང་གཅིག་ལྟར་
བརྩི་བའི་འདུ་ཤེས་སྦྱོར་དགོས་པ་ལས། འོ་ན་མ་སོན་པའི་སྦྱོར་བའི་སེམས་སུ་མི་དགས་མཐུན་སྦྱོང་ཡར་ཐོན་ཡོང་བར་གཞོན་པའི་
འདུ་ཤེས་འཛོག་མི་ཆོག།

*****GOOD LUCK*****