

English Language Proficiency Test
PSC Recruitment 8 July 2026
Post: Section Officer

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.

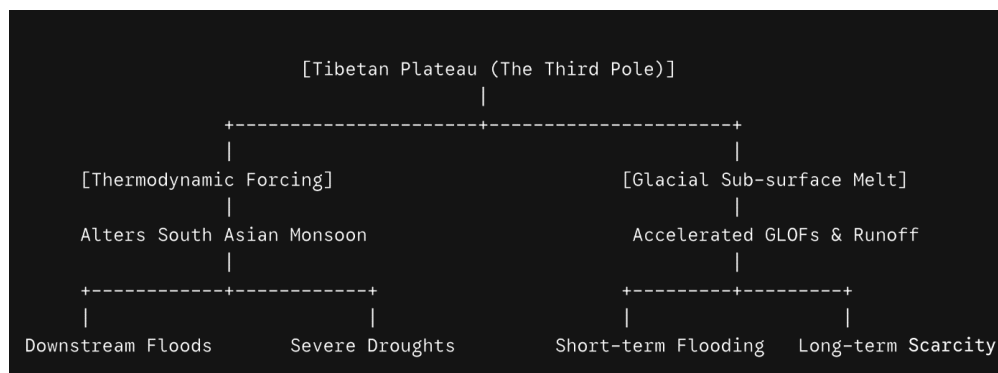
SECTION A: WRITING (30 Marks)

1. You discover that a project report prepared by your subordinate staff scheduled to be submitted to the Department Secretary tomorrow contains false data. The subordinate pleads with you to overlook it, stating that correcting the data now will delay the submission which may disappoint the Secretary. Write an internal memorandum addressed to your section's staff. Formally reprimand the practice, explain how compromising statistical integrity violates civil service ethical codes, and suggest an immediate, ethical course of action to remedy the report. (Around 300 words) (10 Marks)
 2. Discuss the role of governmental & non-governmental organizations in preserving and nurturing the spirit of patriotism among the younger generation of Tibetans born in exile. (10 Marks)
 3. Write an essay on any one of the following topics. (10 Marks)
- Discuss how His Holiness the Dalai Lama's concept of "Secular Ethics" can be practically applied to improve transparency and empathy in public administration.
 - Outline the administrative responsibilities of the CTA in preserving Tibetan cultural heritage as envisioned by His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

SECTION B: READING COMPREHENSION (20 Marks)

Focus: Strategic cross-functional analysis, trend identification, and policy evaluation.

Topic: The Geopolitics of Transboundary Waters and the Ecological Vulnerability of the "Third Pole."



Reading Passage: The Tibetan Plateau, often universally referred to as the "Third Pole," holds the largest global repository of freshwater ice outside of the Arctic and Antarctic circles. Elevated at an average of more than 4,500 meters above sea level, this vast geographic shield contains tens of thousands of glaciers that act as a natural water tower for the entire Asian continent. The meltwater flowing from these high-altitude glacial reservoirs feeds ten of Asia's most critical transboundary river systems, including the Indus, the Ganges, the Brahmaputra (known in Tibet as the Yarlung Tsangpo), the Mekong, the Salween, the Yangtze, and the Yellow River. Consequently, the ecological equilibrium of the Tibetan Plateau directly underpins the hydrological security, agricultural output, and industrial survival of downstream nations hosting a collective population exceeding 1.4 billion people.

In recent decades, however, the Third Pole has emerged as an epicenter of rapid climate degradation. Because of a phenomenon known as elevation-dependent warming, temperatures on the Tibetan Plateau are rising at nearly two to three times the global average rate. This accelerated warming trend has triggered an unprecedented retreat of glaciers across the region. According to satellite monitoring and localized glaciological surveys, a significant percentage of the plateau's glaciers are undergoing rapid mass loss. In the immediate and short-term future, this accelerated melting significantly increases the volume of river runoff, which temporarily gluts downstream river basins. However, this deceptive abundance comes at a catastrophic cost. The rapid accumulation of meltwater is causing the expansion and instability of glacial lakes, leading to a dramatic uptick in Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs). A GLOF occurs when a natural dam composed of loose glacial moraine and ice suddenly fails, releasing millions of cubic meters of water and debris in a matter of minutes, obliterating downstream villages, hydropower installations, and agricultural plains in countries like Nepal, India, and Bhutan.

Looking toward a mid-century horizon, the long-term prognosis is even more alarming. Once these glacial reservoirs are depleted past a critical tipping point—often termed "Peak Water"—the baseline flow of Asia's primary rivers will plummet dramatically during the dry pre-monsoon summer months. For agrarian economies like India and Pakistan, which rely intensely on the predictable flow of the Indus and Ganges for irrigation, this long-term dehydration of the river systems threatens to destabilize domestic food security, trigger internal climate-induced migrations, and severely curtail industrial manufacturing capacity.

Beyond the direct melting of ice, the degradation of the Tibetan landscape alters global weather systems via complex thermodynamic feedback loops. The plateau acts as an immense high-altitude heat source during the spring and summer months, which drives the atmospheric pressure differentials that generate the South Asian Monsoon. As rising temperatures thaw the underlying permafrost and degrade the alpine meadows into arid, dark soil, the surface albedo of the plateau changes fundamentally. Albedo refers to the measure of solar radiation reflected back into space from the earth's surface. Pristine snow and ice possess a high albedo, reflecting up to 80% of solar energy. When the snow cover melts away, it exposes dark, bare rock and soil, which have a very low albedo. Instead of reflecting solar radiation, the exposed plateau absorbs it, storing vast amounts of thermal energy. This amplified thermal absorption alters the jet streams of the Northern Hemisphere, inducing extreme weather volatility, erratic monsoon patterns, and unseasonal droughts or downpours across distant continents.

This ecological vulnerability is further compounded by a tense, hyper-militarized geopolitical environment. The fact that the headwaters of these transboundary rivers lie entirely within Chinese territory gives Beijing supreme upstream structural dominance. To meet its ambitious domestic clean-energy targets and manage its own internal water scarcity challenges, the Chinese state has embarked on extensive hydro-engineering campaigns along the upper reaches of the Yarlung Tsangpo (Brahmaputra) and the Mekong. These projects involve the construction of mega-dams, run-of-the-river hydropower facilities, and potential water-diversion canals designed to channel water northward into China's arid industrial heartlands.

Downstream nations, most notably India and Bangladesh, view these upstream engineering interventions with deep existential anxiety. The primary cause of this friction is not merely the physical presence of the dams, but the profound information asymmetry that characterizes transboundary water management in the region. Unlike Europe, which is governed by comprehensive, legally binding water-sharing frameworks like the UNECE Water Convention, East and South Asia lack a unified, multilateral treaty managing shared river basins. China is not a signatory to any binding international water-sharing treaties with its downstream neighbors.

Instead, water data-such as river flow rates, silt accumulation, and operational schedules of dam floodgates-is exchanged primarily through temporary, bilateral memoranda of understanding (MoUs). During periods of geopolitical tension, such as the military standoffs along the Sino-Indian border, this data sharing has historically been paused or delayed by upstream authorities. Downstream planners are left blind, unable to accurately predict sudden surges in water volume or plan for impending dry spells. Consequently, hydrological data is transformed from a tool of collaborative scientific stewardship into a potent instrument of strategic leverage, heightening regional mistrust and transforming a shared ecological crisis into a zero-sum geopolitical game.

Questions (20 Marks)

1. **Systemic Cause-and-Effect (4 Marks):** Trace the sequence of events, as detailed in the passage, showing how a change in the Tibetan Plateau's "surface albedo" ultimately destabilizes weather systems across the Northern Hemisphere.
2. **Comparative Risk Evaluation (4 Marks):** Differentiate between the short-term and long-term threats that glacial melting on the Third Pole poses to downstream agrarian societies.
3. **Institutional Analysis (4 Marks):** According to the text, why does the absence of a multilateral treaty convert hydrological data into a "tool of strategic leverage" rather than an instrument of scientific cooperation?
4. **Strategic Management Plan (8 Marks):** Imagine you are a senior operations director for a multinational corporation with major manufacturing assets and supply chains situated in the river deltas of South and Southeast Asia. Based on the vulnerabilities highlighted in the text, draft a strategic risk-mitigation memo (120–150 words) to your board outlining two distinct operational adjustments your company must implement to shield its supply chains from the long-term hydrological impacts of the Third Pole's degradation.

SECTION C: GRAMMAR (10 Marks)

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

1. Had she studied harder, she _____ the scholarship.
 - (A) would win
 - (B) would have won
 - (C) will win
 - (D) won
2. Scarcely _____ the meeting begun when the fire alarm rang.
 - (A) had
 - (B) has
 - (C) did
 - (D) was
3. The committee recommended that every applicant _____ the form carefully.
 - (A) completes
 - (B) completed
 - (C) complete
 - (D) has completed
4. Despite _____ exhausted, she continued working until midnight.
 - (A) feel
 - (B) felt
 - (C) feeling
 - (D) to feel
5. The manager _____ the proposal before making a final decision.
 - (A) looked up
 - (B) looked into
 - (C) looked after
 - (D) looked over

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

1. If they _____ (inform) us earlier, we could have helped.
2. Hardly _____ she (finish) her presentation when the audience applauded.
3. He denied _____ (take) the missing files.
4. By next June, I _____ (work) here for five years.
5. Each of the proposals _____ (require) careful consideration.

SECTION D: GENERAL KNOWLEDGE (10 Marks)

1. Which statement most accurately reflects the rationale of the Middle Way Approach?

- A. It seeks independence through international recognition.

- B. It proposes genuine autonomy as a mutually beneficial solution achieved through peaceful dialogue.
- C. It supports a referendum supervised by the United Nations.
- D. It seeks restoration of Tibet's historical political status through external intervention.

2. Which of the following is NOT a function of DIIR?

- A. Coordinating international advocacy
- B. Supervising the Offices of Tibet
- C. Disseminating information on Tibet
- D. Administering Tibetan settlements

3. The Offices of Tibet are best understood as:

- A. Commercial promotion agencies
- B. Representative offices serving functions comparable to embassies of the CTA
- C. Regional branches of the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile
- D. Cultural monasteries

4. The CTA officially advocates resolution of the Tibet issue through:

- A. Armed resistance
- B. Genuine autonomy achieved through negotiations
- C. International sanctions
- D. A UN-administered referendum

5. Which statement is consistent with the Middle Way Approach?

- A. It rejects both dialogue and autonomy.
- B. It seeks coexistence through non-violence and mutually beneficial negotiations.
- C. It demands immediate secession from China.
- D. It prioritizes international legal action over negotiations.

6. Which principal organ of the United Nations elects the non-permanent members of the Security Council?

- A. General Assembly
- B. International Court of Justice
- C. Secretariat
- D. Trusteeship Council

7. Which organization primarily provides short-term financial assistance to countries facing balance-of-payments problems?

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

8. Which country is a member of both the G20 and NATO?

- A. Germany
- B. Switzerland
- C. Austria
- D. Ireland

9. The European Union is best described as:

- A. A military alliance
- B. A political and economic union
- C. A development bank
- D. A UN agency

10. Which of the following is NOT one of the permanent members of the UN Security Council?

- A. India
- B. China
- C. France
- D. United Kingdom

SECTION E: TRANSLATION (10 Marks)

Translate **Article 16** of the PRC's 'Ethnic Unity and Progress Law' into English.

དོན་ཚན་བརྒྱུད་ལྟ་སྟེ། སློབ་ཕྲེང་རིགས་དང་རིམ་པ་ཁག་དང་དེ་བཞིན་སློབ་གསོའི་སྤྱི་གཞི་གཞན་དག་གིས་ཀྱང་རྩ་
རིགས་གཅིག་མ་ཐུན་ཆོག་པ་ལེ་འདྲུ་ཤེས་བརྟན་པོར་སྦྱོང་པའི་སྒྲུབ་བྱ་དེ་སློབ་གསོའི་བརྒྱུད་རིམ་ཁྱིམ་པོར་ཁྲབ་བར་བྱས་ནས་
སློབ་ཁང་གི་སློབ་ཚན་དང་། སྤྱི་ཆོག་གི་ཁྱིམ་ཁུངས་། བརྗོད་དོན་གཙོ་བོའི་སློབ་གསོ། ང་ལས་སློབ་གསོ་བཅས་ལྷན་དུ་འབྲེལ་བའི་
སློབ་གསོའི་མ་ལག་རྩ་འབྲེས་བར་བྱེད་དགོས། སློབ་ཕྲེང་རིགས་དང་རིམ་པ་ཁག་དང་དེ་བཞིན་སློབ་གསོའི་སྤྱི་གཞི་གཞན་དག་
གིས་རྒྱལ་ཁབ་ཀྱི་འབྲེལ་ཡོད་གཏན་འབེབས་ལྟར་རྒྱལ་ཁབ་གཅིག་གྱུར་ཚོམ་སྤྱི་གཞི་སློབ་དཔེ་བེད་སྤྱོད་བྱེད་དགོས། སློབ་གསོའི་
སྤྱི་འཛིན་སྟེ་ཁག་གིས་སློབ་དཔེ་ཚོམ་སྤྱི་གཞི་དང་ཞིབ་བཤེར་གཏན་འབེབས་བྱེད་རིམ་ནང་། ཀྱང་རྩ་མི་རིགས་གཅིག་མ་ཐུན་
ཆོག་པ་ལེ་འདྲུ་ཤེས་བརྟན་པོར་སྦྱོང་པའི་སྒྲུབ་བྱ་དོན་འཁྲོལ་བྱེད་དགོས། རྒྱལ་སྤྱི་སྤྱི་ཁྲབ་ཁང་ཁོངས་སློབ་གསོ་སྤྱི་འཛིན་
དང་མི་རིགས་ལས་དོན་སོགས་སྟེ་ཁག་གིས་སྤྱི་གཞི་འཛུགས་བྱས་ནས་འབྲེལ་ཡོད་ཀྱང་རྩ་མི་རིགས་གཅིག་མ་ཐུན་ཆོག་པ་ལེ་ལྷ་
འབྲེལ་སློབ་དཔེ་བཅས་ཡང་ན་སློབ་དཔེ་ཚོམ་སྤྱི་གཞི་བྱ་རྒྱུ།

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