

English Language Proficiency Test

PSC Recruitment 8 July 2026

Post: Under Secretary

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. A major international donor agency has offered a substantial grant to your department for a welfare initiative. However, the grant comes with a clause requiring the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) to prioritize a specific sub-group within the Tibetan settlement community, which unintentionally creates an inequitable distribution of resources and risks causing public discontent against the CTA. Write an official letter addressed to the representative of the donor agency. Decline or negotiate the restrictive clause while upholding the CTA's ethical commitment to equity, transparency, and welfare service. (Around 300 words) (10 Marks)

2. "Tibetan patriotism in exile has uniquely evolved from a traditional, territory-centric loyalty into a dynamic, values-driven global identity." Critically evaluate this statement. Analyze how universal values—such as compassion, forgiveness, non-violence, environmental stewardship, and democratic governance—serve as the modern pillars of Tibetan patriotism on the world stage. (10 Marks)

3. Write an essay on any one of the following topics. (10 Marks)

- Briefly analyze the diplomatic relevance of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's "Middle Way Approach" in solving modern regional conflicts.
- Explain how His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama's historic decision to devolve political power to an elected leadership strengthens the democracy of the Tibetan community.

SECTION B: READING COMPREHENSION (20 Marks)

Focus: High-level macroeconomic synthesis, structural critique, systemic risk forecasting, and corporate governance integration.

Topic: The Paradox of Preservation: Anthropocene Capital, State-Led Development, and the Re-Engineering of the Tibetan Socio-Ecological Frontier.

Reading passage: The discourse surrounding the Tibetan Plateau in the twenty-first century has fundamentally transitioned from a localized conversation about remote cultural preservation into a critical focal point of global macroeconomic risk and Anthropocene climate dynamics. As the geographic heart of Asia, Tibet is no longer merely a quiet, pastoral borderland; it has been integrated into the global economy as a highly contested frontier where state-driven industrialization, environmental conservation policy, and global corporate supply chains collide. To understand the contemporary realities of Tibet requires an analytical framework that synthesizes the complex interactions between high-altitude thermodynamic changes, state-directed infrastructure capital, and the global imperative for ecological sustainability.

For centuries, the economic foundation of the Tibetan Plateau was defined by mobile pastoralism. Tibetan nomads (drokpa) migrated across vast alpine meadows, managing herds of yaks, sheep, and goats. This pastoral system was not merely an economic lifestyle; it was a sophisticated ecological adaptation. By moving herds continuously across fragile grasslands, the nomads prevented overgrazing, stimulated vegetation growth, and maintained the structural integrity of the root systems within the plateau's thin, organic topsoil. This topsoil layer is critical, as it acts as a massive carbon sink, sequestering gigatons of ancient organic carbon within the underlying permafrost.

However, over the past three decades, the introduction of aggressive state-led developmental paradigms has fundamentally rewritten this socio-ecological contract. Driven by a centralized strategy to integrate remote border regions into national market networks, massive state capital has been funneled into Tibet. This infrastructure-led growth model has materialized in the form of thousands of kilometers of high-speed railways, advanced highway networks, high-voltage electrical grids, and commercial airports.

While these developments have undeniably catalyzed exponential growth in Tibet's provincial Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and modernized urban living standards, they have simultaneously engineered a profound structural paradox. The state's economic approach views the Tibetan landscape through a dual, often contradictory lens: as a critical economic zone rich in mineral and energy resources, and as a highly fragile ecological zone that requires absolute environmental protection.

To resolve this internal contradiction, policymakers have implemented sweeping environmental programs that have had profound unintended consequences. Prominent among these is the policy of ecological migration (*shengtai yimin*). Grounded in the scientific assumption that human activity and overgrazing are the primary drivers of grassland degradation on the plateau, the state has systematically relocated hundreds of thousands of traditional Tibetan nomads off their ancestral pastures and into permanent, concrete resettlement villages on the fringes of urban centers. In these state-constructed settlements, former nomads are integrated into a cash-based consumer economy, often finding themselves structurally unemployed or underemployed due to a lack of formal education and language barriers, leaving them dependent on government subsidies.

Crucially, emerging independent ecological research suggests that the complete removal of pastoral herds from the alpine meadows has actually accelerated, rather than halted, grassland degradation. Without the moderate grazing and natural fertilization provided by nomadic herds, the native alpine vegetation is rapidly replaced by invasive, toxic weeds, leading to severe soil compaction and desertification. When the topsoil degrades, it exposes the underlying

permafrost directly to solar radiation. As the permafrost thaws, it releases vast volumes of long-sequestered methane and carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. This release triggers a potent regional greenhouse feedback loop that intensifies the warming of the entire Third Pole landmass, with cascading destabilizing effects on the global jet streams and weather systems across North America and Europe.

Concurrently, the economic structural shift within Tibet has catalyzed an unprecedented boom in mass domestic tourism. Lhasa, once characterized by its quiet, monastic rhythms, has been re-engineered into a highly commercialized cultural destination. The city now hosts luxury international hotels, expansive shopping complexes, and highly curated cultural performances designed for millions of annual domestic travelers. While this tourism boom has created a vibrant service economy and generated substantial revenue for local small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), it has introduced severe environmental externalities. The high-altitude ecosystem possesses a remarkably low carrying capacity; its cold temperatures drastically slow the natural decomposition of solid waste, and its localized water systems are exceptionally vulnerable to contamination from untreated urban runoff. The rapid expansion of tourism infrastructure has placed an unsustainable strain on Lhasa's water tables, threatening the very resource base that supports the city's long-term habitability.

For global executive leadership and institutional investors, the transformations occurring on the Tibetan Plateau are not distant, localized environmental concerns. Rather, they represent core, systemic material risks that directly impact global supply chain continuity, asset valuations, and corporate Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) compliance frameworks. The thermodynamic behavior of the Third Pole serves as a major driver of the South Asian Monsoon, an atmospheric system that dictates the agricultural yields of India, Pakistan, and large swaths of Southeast Asia.



When the Tibetan Plateau experiences rapid permafrost thaw and albedo reduction, the resulting atmospheric volatility manifests as extreme weather anomalies downstream. This includes unseasonal, torrential deluges that inundate industrial manufacturing hubs in Vietnam, Thailand, and coastal China, or prolonged droughts that cripple hydroelectric power generation across South Asia, forcing factories into rolling blackouts. A manufacturing facility in a South Asian export hub can see its entire operational timeline derailed due to an atmospheric anomaly initiated thousands of miles away on the Tibetan Plateau.

Furthermore, as institutional investors increasingly deploy rigorous climate-risk metrics to evaluate corporate portfolios, the hidden carbon liabilities associated with planetary feedback loops are coming under intense scrutiny. Corporate entities that rely heavily on agricultural

commodities-such as cotton, wheat, rice, or palm oil-face substantial balance-sheet exposure due to the erratic monsoon patterns driven by the thermal degradation of the Third Pole. Crop failures and supply-side shortages trigger severe commodity price inflation, squeezing corporate margins and increasing volatility in global futures markets.

Consequently, modern C-suite governance demands a transition away from traditional, localized risk-assessment models toward a comprehensive, systems-thinking paradigm. Executive leadership must recognize that planetary boundaries are deeply interconnected. Monitoring the ecological metrics of the Tibetan Plateau-specifically permafrost degradation rates, alpine grassland vitality, and transboundary river discharge volumes-is no longer the exclusive domain of academic geoscientists. It is an essential component of forward-looking macro-environmental risk management, vital for securing supply chain resilience, protecting global capital investments, and ensuring genuine compliance with evolving international ESG disclosures.

Questions (20 Marks)

1. **Structural Paradox Critique (4 Marks):** Deconstruct the "structural paradox" inherent in the state's developmental approach to Tibet as articulated in the passage. How do the infrastructure-led growth goals conflict with environmental objectives?
2. **Systemic Ecological Analysis (4 Marks):** Detail the precise scientific mechanism through which the "ecological migration" (*shengtai yimin*) policy inadvertently accelerates permafrost thawing and regional greenhouse gas emissions.
3. **Macroeconomic Mapping (4 Marks):** Synthesize the data from the text to explain how environmental degradation on the Tibetan Plateau creates material financial risks for a multinational consumer goods corporation operating thousands of miles away.
4. **Executive Governance Formulation (8 Marks):** You are the Chief Sustainability Officer (CSO) of a Fortune 500 investment fund managing a diverse global portfolio heavily exposed to agricultural commodities and Asian manufacturing hubs. Draft an executive policy directive (150–200 words) for your senior portfolio managers. The directive must justify the mandatory integration of "Third Pole Climate Indicators" into your fund's risk-assessment and asset-allocation frameworks, outline two specific metrics they must track, and explain how this protects long-term shareholder value.

SECTION C: GRAMMAR (10 Marks)

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

i. If I had taken that flight yesterday, I _____ with you right now.

- (A) would be
- (B) would have been
- (C) will be
- (D) had been

ii. Rarely _____ such a breathtaking performance in all my years of theater-going.

- (A) I have seen

- (B) I had seen
- (C) have I seen
- (D) did I saw

iii. The board of directors insisted that the new CEO _____ immediately.

- (A) is resigning
- (B) resigns
- (C) resign
- (D) resigned

iv. After months of negotiations, the two companies finally managed to _____ a mutually beneficial agreement.

- (A) come up with
- (B) draw up
- (C) fall through
- (D) carry out

v. No sooner had the concert started _____ the heavens opened and it began to pour.

- (A) than
- (B) when
- (C) that
- (D) then

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

1. By the time we arrived, the guests _____ (leave).
2. If I _____ (know) about the meeting, I would have attended it.
3. She insisted that he _____ (apologize) immediately.
4. Hardly _____ the speech begun when the lights went out.
5. Neither the students nor the principal _____ (be) informed.

SECTION D: GENERAL KNOWLEDGE (10 Marks)

Instruction: Choose the right answer from following options

1. The Middle Way Approach, as advocated by His Holiness the Dalai Lama and adopted by the Central Tibetan Administration, seeks to:

- A. Establish an independent Tibetan state through international intervention.
- B. Achieve genuine autonomy for Tibetans within the constitutional framework of the People's Republic of China through peaceful dialogue.
- C. Restore the pre-1950 political status of Tibet through armed resistance.
- D. Create a federal union of Himalayan states under Tibetan leadership.

2. Which of the following is NOT one of the principal functions of the Department of Information and International Relations (DIIR) of the Central Tibetan Administration?

- A. Disseminating information on Tibet's political and human rights situation.

- B. Coordinating the Tibet News Bureau and Tibet TV.
- C. Administering Tibetan settlements in India.
- D. Maintaining international outreach through the Offices of Tibet.

3. The official position of the Central Tibetan Administration on resolving the Tibet issue is best described as:

- A. Full independence through a referendum.
- B. A negotiated settlement based on genuine autonomy and non-violence.
- C. Immediate implementation of United Nations trusteeship.
- D. Integration into a South Asian regional federation.

4. According to the Central Tibetan Administration, the Offices of Tibet primarily function as:

- A. Commercial offices promoting Tibetan trade.
- B. Diplomatic representative offices serving as de facto embassies of the CTA.
- C. Centres for Buddhist monastic education.
- D. Branches of the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile.

5. Which of the following statements correctly reflects the Central Tibetan Administration's understanding of the Middle Way Approach?

- A. It rejects both the existing status quo and the demand for genuine autonomy.
- B. It seeks complete separation from the People's Republic of China.
- C. It represents a middle path between the status quo and independence, emphasizing dialogue, non-violence, and genuine autonomy.
- D. It advocates international sanctions as the primary means of resolving the Tibet issue.

6. Which international organization is primarily responsible for maintaining international peace and security?

- A. World Bank
- B. United Nations (UN)
- C. World Trade Organization (WTO)
- D. International Monetary Fund (IMF)

7. The G20 is best described as a forum of:

- A. Twenty largest military powers in the world.
- B. Twenty major economies that discuss global economic and financial issues.
- C. Twenty members of the United Nations Security Council.
- D. Twenty Asian countries promoting regional cooperation.

8. Which country hosted the G20 Leaders' Summit in 2023?

- A. Brazil
- B. India
- C. Indonesia
- D. South Africa

9. NATO is primarily a:

- A. Trade organization.
- B. Military alliance.
- C. Human rights organization.
- D. Environmental organization.

10. Which of the following is the official currency used by most member states of the European Union?

- A. Pound Sterling
- B. Dollar
- C. Euro
- D. Franc

SECTION E: TRANSLATION (10 Marks)

Translate Article 15 of the PRC's "Ethnic Unity and Progress Law" into English:

དོན་ཚན་བཙུ་བ། རྒྱལ་ཁབ་ཀྱིས་ཕྱོགས་ཡོངས་ནས་རྒྱལ་ཁབ་ཀྱི་སྤྱི་སྤྱོད་སྐད་ཡིག་ཁྲབ་གདལ་དུ་གཏོང་བུ། ཅ་
འཇུགས་གང་དང་མི་སྒྲེར་སུ་ཞིག་ཡིན་ཅུང་སྤྱི་དམངས་ཀྱིས་རྒྱལ་ཁབ་ཀྱི་སྤྱི་སྤྱོད་སྐད་ཡིག་སློབ་སྦྱང་དང་བཀོལ་སྤྱོད་བྱེད་
པར་འགོག་རྒྱུ་བཅོས་མི་ཆོག་སློབ་ཟུང་དེ་བཞིན་སློབ་གསལ་སྤྱི་གཞི་གཞན་དག་གིས་རྒྱལ་ཁབ་ཀྱི་སྤྱི་སྤྱོད་སྐད་ཡིག་
ནི་སློབ་གསལ་དང་སློབ་ཁྱིད་དུ་སྤྱོད་པའི་གཞི་ཅའི་སྐད་དང་ཡི་གེར་འཛིན་བུ། རྒྱལ་ཁབ་ཀྱིས་སློབ་ལོ་མ་སོན་པའི་བྱིས་པས་
སྤྱི་སྐད་ཤེས་པ་དང་། འོས་འགན་སློབ་གསལ་ལྟར་བྱུང་བའི་གཞི་ནི་ཅུང་ལོ་ཆུང་གིས་རྒྱལ་ཁབ་ཀྱི་སྤྱི་སྤྱོད་སྐད་ཡིག་གཞི་
ཅའི་ཆ་ནས་ཁོང་དུ་ཆུང་པར་སྦྱང་འདེད་གཏོང་བུ། རྒྱལ་ཁབ་ལས་ཁུངས་ཀྱིས་རྒྱལ་ཁབ་ཀྱི་སྤྱི་སྤྱོད་སྐད་ཡིག་ནི་གཞུང་དོན་དུ་
སྤྱོད་པའི་སྐད་དང་ཡི་གེར་འཛིན་བུ། འབྲེལ་ཡོད་བཅའ་ཁྲིམས་ཀྱི་གཏན་འབེབས་ལྟར་གངས་ཉུང་མི་རིགས་ཀྱི་སྐད་ཡིག་
སྤྱད་ནས་ཡིག་ཆ་ཡོངས་བསྐྱགས་བྱེད་དགོས་རིགས་ལ། རྒྱལ་ཁབ་ཀྱི་སྤྱི་སྤྱོད་སྐད་ཡིག་གི་པར་གཞི་དང་གངས་ཉུང་མི་
རིགས་ཀྱི་སྐད་ཡིག་གི་པར་གཞི་དུས་མཉམ་དུ་འདོན་སྤྱོད་བྱེད་དགོས། རྒྱལ་ཁབ་ལས་ཁུངས་དང་། སྤྱི་ཚོགས་ཚོགས་
པ། ཁེ་ལས་དང་བྱ་ལས་ཅ་འཇུགས། སྤྱི་ཚོགས་ཀྱི་ཅ་འཇུགས་གཞན་དག་བཅས་ཀྱིས་སྤྱི་པའི་ཚོགས་རར་རྒྱལ་ཁབ་ཀྱི་སྤྱི་
སྤྱོད་སྐད་ཡིག་དང་གངས་ཉུང་མི་རིགས་ཀྱི་སྐད་ཡིག་མཉམ་དུ་བཀོལ་སྤྱོད་བྱེད་དགོས་རིགས། གནས་ས་དང་གོ་རིམ་
སོགས་ཀྱི་ཐད་ནས་རྒྱལ་ཁབ་ཀྱི་སྤྱི་སྤྱོད་སྐད་ཡིག་འབྲུར་དུ་ཐོན་པར་བྱེད་དགོས། རྒྱལ་ཁབ་ཀྱིས་གངས་ཉུང་མི་རིགས་ཀྱི་
སྐད་ཡིག་སློབ་སྦྱང་དང་བཀོལ་སྤྱོད་བྱེད་པར་བཅི་འཛིན་དང་འགན་སྲུང་བྱེད་པ་དང་། གངས་ཉུང་མི་རིགས་ཀྱི་སྐད་ཡིག་
ཚད་ལྡན་ཅན་དང་། ཚད་གཞི་ཅན། ཆ་འཕྲིན་ཅན་བཅས་སུ་འཇུགས་སྒྲུབ་བྱེད་པར་སྦྱང་འདེད་གཏོང་བུ། གངས་ཉུང་མི་
རིགས་ཀྱི་གནའ་དཔེ་རྒྱུ་བཙུ་བ་དང་། དག་སྤྱི་གཞི་ཞིབ་འཇུག་བཅས་སྤྱོད་བཅས་བྱེད་པར་རྒྱབ་སྐྱོར་བུ།

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