

Bhutan's Cultural Shift: Tradition Meets Modernity in the Land of the Thunder

Bhutanese Culture · Answer Key · 10 Questions

1. Which of the following traditional Bhutanese customs has seen a notable shift in recent years, with more young couples opting to live together before formalizing their marriage?

- A) The practice of archery as the national sport.
- B) The concept of Gross National Happiness (GNH).

C) Marriage customs.

- D) The celebration of the annual Tshechu festival.

2. Bhutan's unique development philosophy, which prioritizes well-being and cultural preservation over solely economic growth, is known as:

- A) Gross National Product (GNP).

B) Gross National Happiness (GNH).

- C) Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
- D) Gross National Progress (GNP).

3. The traditional Bhutanese dress for men is called the 'Gho'. What is a recent trend observed regarding its daily wear, particularly outside official settings?

- A) The Gho is now exclusively worn during festivals.

B) The Gho is increasingly being replaced by Western-style trousers.

- C) The Gho is now mandatory for all citizens, regardless of location.
- D) The Gho is only worn by royalty and high-ranking officials.

4. Which of the following Bhutanese cultural practices is deeply rooted in Buddhism and involves colorful masks, traditional music, and elaborate dances?

A) The annual Tshechu festival.

- B) Archery competitions.
- C) The preparation of Ema Datshi.
- D) The construction of traditional Dzongs.

5. Bhutan has made significant strides in balancing tradition and modernity. Which of these is an example of modernization impacting traditional beliefs and practices?

- A) Increased reliance on traditional animistic beliefs.
- B) A decline in the use of English as a lingua franca.

C) The adoption of modern scientific knowledge alongside traditional values.

- D) A decrease in urbanization and a return to subsistence farming.

6. In recent years, Bhutan's parliament passed an amendment standardizing the minimum age for marriage for both men and women to:

A) 16 years.

B) 18 years.

C) 21 years.

D) 24 years.

7. What sport was declared Bhutan's national sport in 1971 and continues to be a popular cultural activity, often incorporating traditional materials?

A) Football (Soccer).

B) Basketball.

C) Archery.

D) Cricket.

8. Which of the following has been a significant influence on Bhutanese youth culture, leading to concerns about the impact of global trends on traditional values?

A) The isolationist policies of the past.

B) The introduction of television and internet services.

C) The decline of Buddhism as a dominant faith.

D) The strict adherence to ancient farming techniques.

9. The concept of 'Gross National Happiness' (GNH) in Bhutan emphasizes a holistic approach to development. Which of these is NOT one of its core pillars?

A) Equitable economic development.

B) Good governance.

C) Environmental conservation.

D) Military expansion.

10. Bhutan's move towards democracy has involved a constitutional framework that maintains the monarchy as the head of state. Who is the current King of Bhutan?

A) Jigme Singye Wangchuck.

B) Jigme Dorji Wangchuck.

C) Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck.

D) Ugyen Wangchuck.