

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

Bhutanese Culture · Practice Test · 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.