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BAR COUNCIL OF BHUTAN

Contact: +975-2-330826, Email: info@barcouncilofbhutan.gov.bt

BCB/ADM/2026/185

Date: 03.08.2026

Notification

The *Jabmi Tshogday* (Bar Council of Bhutan) is pleased to notify all prospective candidates that the **Bar Examination 2026** will be conducted from **1–3 October 2026**. Candidates are kindly advised that the examination dates coincide with the Main Examination of the Royal Civil Service Examination (RCSC). Applicants are therefore requested to make the necessary arrangements to ensure their availability during the examination period.

The Common Exam will consist of a written component and a viva voce component.

The written component of the 2026 Bar Exam will be held on 1st – 3rd October 2026. The venue for the exam will be informed once the room allocation is finalized. Candidates for Bar admission should **report no later than 9:00am**.

The *viva* portion of the Bar Exam will be conducted on 12th - 16th October 2026. The viva exam will be conducted in Bar Council Office, OAG building.

The *Jabmi Tshogdey* is pleased to give the following information concerning the test:

A : REGISTRATION

The candidates are required to register with the *Jabmi Tshogdey* Secretariat on or before 20th September 2026. For the purpose of the registration, along with a **written application**, the candidates are requested to furnish the following documents:

- (1) a copy of a valid Bhutanese Citizenship Identity Card;
- (2) Certificate of Bachelor of Law Degree;
- (3) University Recognition Certificate from DAHE;
- (4) a Medical Certificate;
- (5) a security clearance from the Royal Bhutan Police;
- (6) submit two recent passport size photographs;
- (7) postal address of the applicant;
- (8) certificate of completion of the National Legal Course or Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law; and
- (9) an examination fee of Ngultrum three thousand.





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B: COMPOSITION OF WRITTEN EXAMINATION

The written Examination is comprised of the following two Papers:

Paper I: Language -ENGLISH

- (1) Section One: Multiple-choice Questions. This will consist of 25 multiple-choice questions designed to test knowledge of Bhutanese law and general principles.
- (2) Section Two: Essay Questions.
 - (a) Compulsory one long essay question (two to five pages) and
 - (b) Choose one short essay question (one page or less) of two possible essay question.

Paper II: Language -DZONGKHA

- (1) Section One: Multiple-choice questions. This will consist of 25 multiple-choice questions designed to test knowledge of Bhutanese law.
- (2) Section Two: Essay Questions
 - (a) One compulsory long essay question: This will consist of one long essay (two to five pages) setting forth a complicated fact pattern that the test-taker is required to give an answer and reasoning.
 - (b) Choose one short essay question (one page or less) of two possible essay question.

Paper III: Drafting Paper

- (1) Section One: English Drafting
 - (a) Candidates will be given a complicated pattern of Facts of a transaction or a dispute. Candidates are expected to draft an legal opinion, a petition, a pleading, a contract or an agreement, Chargesheet or a conveyance.
- (2) Section Two: Dzongkha Drafting
 - (a) Candidates will be given a complicated pattern of Facts of a transaction or a dispute. Candidates are expected to draft a petition, a pleading, a contract or an agreement, Chargesheet or a conveyance.





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C: DURATION OF EXAMINATION

The schedule is as follows:

Paper I (Day 1): Language –ENGLISH (For Three Hours)

- I. SECTION ONE: MULTIPLE-CHOICE – ENGLISH
- II. SECTION TWO: ESSAY – ENGLISH

Paper II (Day 2): Language -DZONGKHA (For Three Hours)

- I. SECTION ONE: MULTIPLE-CHOICE – DZONGKHA
- II. SECTION TWO: ESSAY – DZONGKHA

Paper III (Day 3): DRAFTING (Three Hours)

- I. SECTION I: ENGLISH DRAFTING
- II. SECTION II: DZONGKHA DRAFTING

D: SUBJECTS TO BE TESTED

The subjects to be tested on the examination are:

- I. **Core Subjects: 70%**
- II. **Secondary Subject: 20%**
- III. **Others: 10 %**

For detailed breakdown of subjects see ANNEX I.

E : SCORING

The written examination will consist of 500 points. Points will be awarded as follows:

Paper	Section	Description	Number of Items	Points Per item	Total Points	% of the Test
PAPER I: ENGLISH	Section One	MCQ	25	2	50	10%
	Section two	Long Essay	1	60	100	25%
		Short Essay	1 (of 2)	40		





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PAPER II: DZONGKHA	Section One	MCQ	25	2	50	10%
	Section Two	Long Essay	1	60	100	25%
		Short Essay	1 (of 2)	40		
PAPER III: DRAFTING	Section One	English Drafting	1	100	200	30%
	Section Two	Dzongkha Drafting	1	100		
				Grand total:	500	100

For detailed Marking Rubrics see ANNEX II.

F : PASSING MARKS

In order to pass and be eligible for admission to the Bar, the candidate must achieve the following minimum cut off marks in Written Examination:

- (1) At least 55% in Paper I.
- (2) At least 55% in Paper II.
- (3) At least 55% in Paper III
- (4) At least 60% total in Paper I, Paper II, and Paper III.

Viva Examination: In addition, the candidate must earn 55% or more on the viva examination, which will be held on the days after the written examination.





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ANNEX I: Subject list

Core Subjects (70%)

1. Constitutional Law
 - a. General Principles of Constitutional law
 - b. Constitution of Bhutan, 2008
2. Criminal law
 - a. Penal Code of Bhutan, 2004 (Amendments 2011, 2021)
 - b. Penal provisions under the core subjects.
 - c. Principles of criminal law
3. Commercial law
 - a. Contract Act of Bhutan, 2013
 - b. Companies Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2016
 - c. Copyright Act of Bhutan, 2001
 - d. Moveable & Immovable Property Act, 1999
4. Family and Property law
 - a. Marriage Act of Bhutan, 1996 (Amendment 2009)
 - b. Child Care and Protection Act of Bhutan
 - c. Child Adoption Act of Bhutan, 2012
 - d. Domestic Violence Prevention Act, 2013
 - e. Land Act of Bhutan, 2007
 - f. Inheritance Act of Bhutan, 1980
 - g. Tenancy Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2015
 - h. Movable Cultural Property Act of Bhutan, 2005
5. Taxation law
 - a. Goods and Services Tax Act of Bhutan, 2020 (Amendment 2025)
 - b. Income Tax Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2001
 - c. Tax Act of Bhutan, 2022
 - d. Property Tax Act of Bhutan, 2022
 - e. Sales Tax, Customs and Excise Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2000 (and Subsequent amendments)
6. Procedural and substantive law





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- a. Evidence Act of Bhutan, 2005
- b. Civil and Criminal Procedure Code of Bhutan, 2001 (Amendments 2011, 2021)
- c. Civil Liability Act of Bhutan, 2023

7. Environmental law

- a. Environmental Assessment Act of Bhutan, 2000
- b. National Environment Protection Act of Bhutan, 2007
- c. Forest and Nature Conservation Act of Bhutan, 1995
- d. Forest and Nature conservation rules and regulations
- e. Biodiversity Act of Bhutan, 2003
- f. Water Act of Bhutan, 2011
- g. Mines and Minerals Management Act of Bhutan, 1995

8. Financial law

- a. Financial Services Act, 2011
- b. Royal Monetary Authority Act of Bhutan, 2010
- c. Public Finance Act of Bhutan, 2007 (And subsequent Amendments)

9. Professional Ethics

- a. Jabmi Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2003 (Amendment 2016)

10. General Principles of Law (International law)

Secondary subjects (20%)

- a. General Principles of Administrative Law
- b. Labour and Employment Act of Bhutan, 2007
- c. Office of the Attorney General Act of Bhutan, 2015
- d. Civil Service Reform Act of Bhutan, 2022
- e. Judicial Service Act of Bhutan, 2007
- f. Election Act of Bhutan, 2008
- g. Local Government Act 2007 (and amendments)
- h. Bhutan Citizenship Act, 1985
- i. Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances & Substance Abuse Act of Bhutan 2015 (and Amendments)
- j. Tenancy act of Bhutan 2015)
- k. Negotiable Instruments Act of Kingdom of Bhutan, 2000





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I. Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Act of Bhutan 2021

Others: (10%)

- Thrimzhung Chenmo
- Anti Corruption Act of Bhutan 2011 (and Amendments)
- Waste Prevention and Management Act, 2009
- Immigration Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2007
- National Assembly Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2008 (amendment 2014)
- National Council Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2008 (amendment 2014)
- National Referendum Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2008
- Civil Society Organizations Act of Bhutan, 2007
- Road Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2013

ANNEX II: Marking Rubrics

Following Rubrics will be used to mark the Essay and Drafting questions:

Criteria	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor
Understanding & Issue Identification	Identifies all key legal issues; clear grasp of context.	Identifies most issues; minor gaps.	Partial understanding; some key issues missed.	Misunderstands question; off-topic.
Knowledge of Law & Use of Authorities/Examples	Accurate, comprehensive law & well-integrated authorities/examples.	Mostly accurate; some omissions; some authorities/examples used.	Basic knowledge; limited authorities/examples; gaps.	Minimal/incorrect law; no relevant authorities/examples.
Analysis & Application	Excellent application; balanced reasoning; critical insights.	Solid application; some depth lacking.	Mostly descriptive; limited application.	Little/no application; rote reproduction.
Structure, Clarity & Coherence	Well-organized; logical flow; clear language.	Generally, well structured; minor lapses.	Some structure; clarity issues.	Disorganized; hard to follow.
Conclusion & Practical Insights	Logical conclusion tied to analysis; practical recommendations.	Adequate conclusion; some linkage.	Weak/generic conclusion; lacks linkage.	No conclusion or irrelevant.

