



FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

CSS 2014

Competitive Examination for Recruitment to Posts in BS-17

English (Précis & Composition)

★ FULLY SOLVED • MODEL ANSWERS • MCQs WITH KEY ★

Part-I — MCQs	30 Minutes • 20 Marks
Part-II — Subjective	2 Hours 30 Minutes • 80 Marks
Total Marks	100
Solutions Prepared For	CSS / PMS Aspirants

COMPLETE PAST PAPER SOLUTION — PRÉCIS • COMPREHENSION • ESSAY NOTE • IDIOMS • GRAMMAR

Part-I : Multiple Choice Questions

20 Marks

Each question carries one mark. The correct option is highlighted in green and marked with a tick (✓). Compiled in the standard CSS vocabulary / grammar MCQ pattern.

1. Choose the correct synonym of "Ephemeral":

- (a) Permanent ☒ (b) Fleeting (c) Eternal (d) Massive

2. Choose the correct antonym of "Benevolent":

- (a) Kind (b) Generous ☒ (c) Malevolent (d) Charitable

3. One who believes that pleasure is the chief good in life is called:

- (a) Ascetic ☒ (b) Hedonist (c) Stoic (d) Cynic

4. Choose the correctly spelled word:

- (a) Accomodate (b) Accommodate ☒ (c) Accommodate (d) Acomodate

5. Choose the correct synonym of "Candid":

- (a) Deceptive ☒ (b) Frank (c) Reserved (d) Ambiguous

6. The idiom "to bury the hatchet" means:

- (a) To start a fight ☒ (b) To make peace (c) To hide something (d) To dig a grave

7. Choose the correct antonym of "Verbose":

- (a) Wordy ☒ (b) Concise (c) Lengthy (d) Detailed

8. Choose the correct preposition: "He is good ___ mathematics."

- (a) in ☒ (b) at (c) on (d) with

9. One who is unable to speak is called:

- (a) Deaf ☒ (b) Mute (c) Blind (d) Dumb

10. Choose the correct synonym of "Meticulous":

- (a) Careless ☒ (b) Thorough (c) Hasty (d) Vague

11. Choose the grammatically correct sentence:

- (a) Neither of the boys were present ☒ (b) Neither of the boys was present (c) Neither of the boys are present
(d) Neither of the boy was present

12. Choose the correct antonym of "Frugal":

- (a) Thrifty (b) Economical ☒ (c) Extravagant (d) Sparing

13. Government by the few is called:

- (a) Democracy ☒ (b) Oligarchy (c) Monarchy (d) Anarchy

14. Choose the correct synonym of "Pragmatic":

- (a) Idealistic ☒ (b) Practical (c) Theoretical (d) Fanciful

15. Choose the correctly spelled word:

- (a) Occassion (b) Ocassion ☒ (c) Occasion (d) Ocasion

16. The idiom "to let the cat out of the bag" means:

- (a) To adopt a pet ☒ (b) To reveal a secret (c) To escape danger (d) To cause trouble

17. Choose the correct antonym of "Diligent":

- (a) Hardworking ☒ (b) Lazy (c) Careful (d) Attentive

18. Choose the correct article: "___ *Sun rises in the East.*"

- (a) A (b) An ☒ (c) The (d) No article

19. A place where birds are kept is called:

- ☒ (a) Aviary (b) Apiary (c) Aquarium (d) Sanctuary

20. Choose the correct synonym of "Austere":

- (a) Luxurious ☒ (b) Severe (c) Comfortable (d) Lenient

Note: The Part-I MCQ section is not reproduced in the original released question paper; these 20 items have been compiled by the solution author in the standard CSS vocabulary/grammar pattern for complete practice.

Part-II : Subjective

80 Marks

2 Précis Writing & Suitable Heading

20 + 2 = 22 Marks

MODEL PRÉCIS

Man's only safeguard today lies in directing his intelligence towards love and kindness, developing empathy alongside intellect so that reason serves social morality and human survival. Historically, religion failed to instil this morality, succumbing to wealth and power, while pragmatic men reduced ethics to mere power politics, heightening the risk of catastrophic destruction. Educators and institutions must therefore assume responsibility for cultivating morally sensitive intelligence, nurturing in individuals the capacity to love, the security to be kind, and the integrity essential for genuine empathy — thereby securing humanity's survival.

Word count: 89 words (original ≈ 240 words)

Suggested Heading: "Intelligence in the Service of Empathy"

3 Comprehension — American vs. French Revolution

20 Marks

(1) Why and how did the Reign of Terror happen?

The Reign of Terror grew out of France's internal disunity. Unlike the Americans, the French failed to set aside their political differences; the ousting and execution of the king shocked a large section of society still loyal to him and left the national character seemingly corrupted. This infighting escalated into civil war, and the radical factions who seized power began executing political opponents on a mass scale, giving rise to the Reign of Terror.

(2) In what ways was the American Revolution easier to complete than the French Revolution?

Geographic distance from Europe kept the American Revolution free of foreign interference, whereas the French faced immediate hostility from neighbouring powers. Americans already possessed a distinct identity separate from Britain, so there was little emotional attachment to preserve; they also never killed or dethroned a monarch, avoiding the moral crisis this caused in France. Above all, the Americans sought only a change of government, not a transformation of society itself, unlike the French.

(3) Which challenge had the greatest impact on the French failure? Why?

The deep social stratification and consequent disunity among the French people appear to be the most decisive factor. Because the nation could never unite its workers, peasants, middle class, nobles and clergy behind one cause, every attempt at reform — including the imposed Cult of Reason — deepened division rather than resolving it, making internal collapse almost inevitable regardless of outside threats.

(4) Which strength had the greatest impact on the American success? Why?

The political unity of the Americans stands out as the most important strength. By setting aside internal disagreements until independence was secured, they could direct all their energy toward a single, focused

goal — defeating Britain — rather than simultaneously fighting an external war and an internal struggle for national identity, as the French were forced to do.

4 Comprehensive Note (250-300 words)**20 Marks****Topic Chosen: "Actions Speak Louder Than Words"**

Words are cheap; it is action that carries true weight and reveals genuine character. A person may make grand promises, offer eloquent assurances, or profess noble intentions, yet none of these hold real value unless translated into concrete deeds. This timeless proverb reminds us that sincerity is measured not by what one says but by what one actually does.

History and everyday life alike affirm this truth. Great leaders are remembered not for their rhetoric but for the reforms and sacrifices they delivered. A friend who quietly stands by someone in hardship demonstrates more loyalty than one who merely offers sympathetic words. Similarly, in professional life, an employee's competence is judged by results achieved, not by claims made during an interview. Institutions and governments, too, are judged by citizens on the basis of implemented policies rather than election-time slogans.

The gap between speech and action often breeds distrust. Politicians who promise development but deliver none, or individuals who pledge support but vanish when needed, erode credibility and damage relationships. Conversely, consistent action — even without elaborate promises — builds lasting trust and respect. This is why practical philosophy across cultures, from Confucian ethics to modern leadership theory, emphasizes deeds over declarations.

In our own lives, therefore, the lesson is clear: sincerity must be demonstrated through effort, discipline and follow-through, not merely through assurances. Whether in personal relationships, professional commitments or national leadership, it is consistent, honest action that earns lasting credibility, while empty words, however polished, ultimately fade into insignificance.

Word count: 268 words

5 Idioms Used in Sentences (any FIVE)**10 Marks**

To bring grist to the mill — The unexpected donation brought grist to the mill for the charity's new education project.

With one's tongue in one's cheek — He congratulated his rival with his tongue in his cheek, clearly not meaning a word of it.

A storm in a tea cup — Their heated argument over the seating arrangement turned out to be a storm in a tea cup.

To talk through one's hat — Without any real evidence, the analyst was simply talking through his hat about the market crash.

To let the grass grow under one's feet — The new manager did not let the grass grow under her feet and reorganised the department within a week.

6 Sentence Correction (any FOUR)**08 Marks**

~~✗ Each furniture in this display is on sale for half price.~~

✓ All the furniture in this display is on sale for half price.

~~✗ The duties of the new secretary are to answer the telephone, to type letters and bookkeeping.~~

✓ The duties of the new secretary are to answer the telephone, type letters, and keep books.

~~✗ No sooner we left the shop it began to rain.~~

✓ No sooner had we left the shop than it began to rain.

~~✗ The population of Karachi is greater than any other city in Pakistan.~~

✓ The population of Karachi is greater than that of any other city in Pakistan.

End of Solved Paper — CSS 2014 English (Précis & Composition) — Prepared for aspirant practice and revision.