



FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

CSS 2015

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

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 "Ubiquitous":

- (a) Rare ☒ (b) Omnipresent (c) Isolated (d) Hidden

2. Choose the correct antonym of "Frivolous":

- ☒ (a) Serious (b) Silly (c) Trivial (d) Playful

3. One who loves mankind is called:

- ☒ (a) Philanthropist (b) Misanthrope (c) Philatelist (d) Philologist

4. Choose the correctly spelled word:

- (a) Priviledge ☒ (b) Privilege (c) Privelege (d) Priveledge

5. Choose the correct synonym of "Lucid":

- (a) Confusing ☒ (b) Clear (c) Vague (d) Complex

6. The idiom "to add fuel to the fire" means:

- (a) To calm a situation ☒ (b) To worsen a situation (c) To start a fire (d) To extinguish anger

7. Choose the correct antonym of "Meagre":

- (a) Scanty ☒ (b) Abundant (c) Sparse (d) Thin

8. Choose the correct preposition: "She is married ___ a doctor."

- (a) with ☒ (b) to (c) for (d) by

9. One who does not believe in the existence of God is called:

- (a) Theist ☒ (b) Atheist (c) Agnostic (d) Pantheist

10. Choose the correct synonym of "Prudent":

- (a) Reckless ☒ (b) Wise (c) Careless (d) Foolish

11. Choose the grammatically correct sentence:

- (a) Each of the students have submitted their assignment
☒ (b) Each of the students has submitted his assignment (c) Each of the student has submitted assignment
(d) Each of the students has submit assignment

12. Choose the correct antonym of "Ephemeral":

(a) Fleeting (b) Transient **✓(c) Permanent** (d) Momentary

13. Government by a single ruler with absolute power is called:

(a) Democracy **✓(b) Autocracy** (c) Aristocracy (d) Theocracy

14. Choose the correct synonym of "Zealous":

(a) Indifferent **✓(b) Enthusiastic** (c) Lazy (d) Reluctant

15. Choose the correctly spelled word:

(a) Neccessary **✓(b) Necessary** (c) Neccesary (d) Necessary

16. The idiom "to hit the nail on the head" means:

(a) To make a mistake **✓(b) To say something exactly right** (c) To injure someone (d) To build something

17. Choose the correct antonym of "Candid":

(a) Frank (b) Honest **✓(c) Evasive** (d) Open

18. Choose the correct article: "He is ___ honest man."

(a) a **✓(b) an** (c) the (d) no article

19. A person who eats human flesh is called:

✓(a) Cannibal (b) Carnivore (c) Herbivore (d) Vegetarian

20. Choose the correct synonym of "Obstinate":

(a) Flexible **✓(b) Stubborn** (c) Agreeable (d) Compliant

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 Title

20 Marks

MODEL PRÉCIS

Studying the collapse of civilizations confirms that war has been the underlying cause of every civilization's breakdown, its destructiveness remaining concealed until a society gains the economic and political strength to wage it on a large scale. What initially seems profitable through wealth and military virtue eventually turns into a fatal cancer, consuming a society's resources and vitality once its war-making capacity matures. Recognizing this danger, individuals have historically sought salvation either through personal refusal to participate in war, or through collective efforts to persuade states to jointly resist aggression and remove its causes. Although personal refusal appeals to self-sacrificing idealism, experience shows that the indirect, collective approach offers the more promising path toward saving civilization from war's toll.

Word count: 118 words (original ≈ 370 words)

Suggested Title: "War: The Proximate Cause of Civilizational Breakdown"

3 Comprehension — Belief and the Scientific Method

20 Marks

(1) Meaning of the underlined phrases

"Justified by the event" — proved correct by what actually happens afterward, i.e. validated by the outcome or result.

"An effective enough means of inducing belief" — a method or device (such as repeated assertion) powerful enough to make people believe something, regardless of whether it is actually true.

(2) What justification does the author claim for his belief in the scientific method?

The author argues that the scientific method alone demands facts as the sole basis for conclusions, subjects those conclusions to continuous testing against new evidence and experiment, and requires full publication of evidence so others can verify or reinterpret it — making it, in his view, the only reliable foundation for belief.

(3) Should scientific conclusions be considered final? Give reasons.

No. The passage explicitly states that the scientific method is slow and never claims to lead to complete truth; conclusions remain provisional, subject to constant re-testing against new facts and experiments, so they can never be treated as final or absolute.

(4) In what circumstances is it necessary to abandon the scientific method?

According to the author, everyday life often demands immediate action on the basis of incomplete evidence, leaving no time for the slow testing and suspended judgment that the scientific method requires. In such urgent situations, one must act on faith and intuitive judgment rather than rigorous scientific proof.

(5) How does "intuitive judgment" differ from scientific decision-making?

Intuitive judgment rests on faith — in one's own capacity to judge and in moral or spiritual realities — allowing quick, provisional decisions without complete evidence. Scientific decision-making, by contrast, relies on rigid calculation, factual demonstration and repeated experimental verification, producing conclusions that are slower but more rigorously tested.

4 Comprehensive Note (250-300 words)**20 Marks****Topic Chosen: "Education Should Be for Life, Not for Livelihood"**

Education is often reduced today to a mere passport for employment, valued only for the salary it eventually secures. Yet this narrow, utilitarian view betrays the true purpose of education, which is to cultivate a complete human being — one capable of reason, empathy, moral judgment and lifelong growth, not merely a functional worker trained for a specific job.

Education for livelihood focuses on technical competence: it teaches a person how to earn, but rarely why to live meaningfully. Education for life, by contrast, nurtures character, critical thinking, aesthetic sensibility and civic responsibility. It equips individuals to face adversity, form relationships, appreciate art and literature, and contribute thoughtfully to society, regardless of their profession. History's great thinkers, scientists and reformers were shaped by an education that prized curiosity and wisdom over narrow vocational training.

A society that educates purely for livelihood risks producing efficient but hollow citizens — skilled at their trade yet indifferent to justice, culture or the wellbeing of others. Rapid technological change further undermines purely vocational training, since specific skills quickly become obsolete; what endures is the capacity to think, adapt and learn continuously, which only a broad, humanistic education can provide.

Therefore, while livelihood remains a legitimate and necessary outcome of education, it should never be its sole aim. True education must prepare individuals not just to earn a living, but to live a life of purpose, integrity and continual learning — benefiting both the individual and the society they belong to.

Word count: 271 words

5a Idioms Used in Sentences (any FIVE)**05 Marks**

Itching palm — The corrupt clerk had an itching palm and refused to process the file without a bribe.

Wash one's hands of — After the project failed repeatedly, the investor decided to wash his hands of the entire venture.

To militate against — Poor infrastructure continues to militate against rapid industrial growth in the region.

To be cognizant of — A good leader must always be cognizant of the concerns of the people he represents.

Wages of sin — Losing both his fortune and his friends was the wages of sin for his years of deceit.

5b Difference Between Word Pairs (any FIVE)**05 Marks**

Plaintiff — the party who brings a case against another in a court of law. | **Plaintive** — expressing sorrow or melancholy, as in a mournful sound.

Monitor — a person who oversees or supervises an activity or process. | **Mentor** — an experienced and trusted adviser who guides someone's development.

Complacent — self-satisfied and unaware of potential danger or shortcomings. | **Complaisant** — willing to please others; obligingly agreeable.

Penitence — genuine sorrow or remorse felt for having done wrong. | **Penance** — a voluntary act of self-punishment performed to show that remorse.

Crevice — a narrow crack or opening, typically in rock or a wall. | **Crevasse** — a deep, wide open crack, especially in a glacier or ice sheet.

6a Sentence Correction (any FIVE)**05 Marks**~~✗ Have either of you seen my pen?~~

✓ Has either of you seen my pen?

~~✗ The child is the prettiest of the two.~~

✓ The child is the prettier of the two.

~~✗ He is anxious not only to acquire knowledge, but also eager to display it.~~

✓ He is not only anxious to acquire knowledge, but also eager to display it.

~~✗ If he was here now, we should have no difficulty.~~

✓ If he were here now, we should have no difficulty.

~~✗ Due to unforeseen environments, we shall have to leave early.~~

✓ Due to unforeseen circumstances, we shall have to leave early.

6b Direct ⇌ Indirect Speech (any ONE)**05 Marks****PASSAGE (i) — CONVERTED TO INDIRECT SPEECH**

Just as we came in sight of the valley, Jamil met us and remarked that the valley was all very fine, but asked if we knew that there was nothing to eat. Someone replied that it was nonsense, since they could eat anything there. Jamil then said that the brown bread was two months old, and that there was nothing else but potatoes. The other person insisted that there must be milk anyhow, to which Jamil replied that yes, he supposed there was milk.