



FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

CSS 2016

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 "Ambiguous":

- (a) Clear **✓ (b) Vague** (c) Certain (d) Precise

2. Choose the correct antonym of "Gregarious":

- (a) Sociable **✓ (b) Solitary** (c) Friendly (d) Outgoing

3. One who works without payment is called:

- (a) Mercenary **✓ (b) Volunteer** (c) Employee (d) Contractor

4. Choose the correctly spelled word:

- (a) Recieve **✓ (b) Receive** (c) Receive (d) Recieve

5. Choose the correct synonym of "Vivid":

- (a) Dull **✓ (b) Bright** (c) Faint (d) Pale

6. The idiom "to spill the beans" means:

- (a) To cook food **✓ (b) To reveal a secret** (c) To waste food (d) To argue

7. Choose the correct antonym of "Concise":

- (a) Brief **✓ (b) Verbose** (c) Short (d) Terse

8. Choose the correct preposition: "He is capable ___ handling the situation."

- ✓ (a) of** (b) at (c) for (d) with

9. One who studies the stars and planets is called:

- (a) Astrologer **✓ (b) Astronomer** (c) Geologist (d) Meteorologist

10. Choose the correct synonym of "Tedious":

- (a) Exciting **✓ (b) Boring** (c) Interesting (d) Thrilling

11. Choose the grammatically correct sentence:

- (a) She don't like coffee (b) She doesn't likes coffee **✓ (c) She doesn't like coffee** (d) She not like coffee

12. Choose the correct antonym of "Voluntary":

- (a) Willing **✓ (b) Compulsory** (c) Optional (d) Free

13. Government by God or religious leaders is called:

- (a) Democracy **✓ (b) Theocracy** (c) Autocracy (d) Bureaucracy

14. Choose the correct synonym of "Fastidious":

- (a) Careless ☒ (b) Particular (c) Casual (d) Sloppy

15. Choose the correctly spelled word:

- (a) Definately ☒ (b) Definitely (c) Definitley (d) Definetly

16. The idiom "to beat around the bush" means:

- (a) To speak directly ☒ (b) To avoid the main point (c) To garden (d) To search thoroughly

17. Choose the correct antonym of "Genuine":

- (a) Authentic (b) Real ☒ (c) Fake (d) True

18. Choose the correct article: "___ university offers many courses."

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

19. A person who repairs shoes is called:

- ☒ (a) Cobbler (b) Tailor (c) Carpenter (d) Blacksmith

20. Choose the correct synonym of "Reticent":

- (a) Talkative ☒ (b) Reserved (c) Outspoken (d) Expressive

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 (≈120 words) & Suitable Title

20 Marks

MODEL PRÉCIS

Seeking an escape from crowded holiday destinations, the writer travelled with a friend to Cherokee, Oklahoma, visiting Qualla Boundary, a town recreating eighteenth-century tribal life through its Indian village and historical pageant. Exploring souvenir shops selling traditional crafts, the travellers met George, a fluent English-speaking local who shared how the Cherokees, once dependent on trade and woodcutting, now supplement their income through tourism and popular "Bingo Weekend" events offering large cash returns. A museum displaying tribal art and carvings marked their final stop. The writer returned home with lasting memories, eager to discover another such exotic, off-the-beaten-path destination in future travels.

Word count: 105 words

Suggested Title: "An Exotic Escape to Cherokee Country"

3 Comprehension — New Year Resolutions

20 Marks

(1) Why do most of us fail in our efforts for self-improvement?

Most people fail because their self-improvement schemes are too ambitious, leaving them no realistic time to carry the plans out; on top of this, publicly announcing the resolution adds pressure that makes eventual failure feel even more embarrassing.

(2) Why is it a basic mistake to announce our resolution to everybody?

Announcing a resolution to everyone means that when we inevitably slip back into old habits, the failure becomes public knowledge, making us look more foolish than if we had kept the resolution private, which discourages genuine, quiet effort.

(3) Why did the writer not carry out his resolution on New Year's Day?

The writer attended an overnight party on New Year's Eve, and this conveniently provided him with an excuse not to carry out either of his resolutions — physical exercise and reading — on the very first day of the year.

(4) Words from the passage with meanings similar to the given words

(1) **Intimidating** → *unsettling* | (2) **Peril** → *pitfalls* | (3) **Dwindle** → *diminished* | (4) **Repel** → *fended off*
| (5) **Barb** → *jibes*

4a Sentence Correction (any FIVE)**05 Marks**~~✗ We were staying at my sister's cape's code vacation home.~~

✓ We were staying at my sister's Cape Cod vacation home.

~~✗ She recommended me that I take a few days off from work.~~

✓ She recommended that I take a few days off from work.

~~✗ I tried to explain him the problem, but he had difficulty understanding me.~~

✓ I tried to explain the problem to him, but he had difficulty understanding me.

~~✗ I don't know why you didn't go. If I were you, I should have gone.~~

✓ I don't know why you didn't go. If I had been you, I would have gone.

~~✗ Kevin says he stopped to travel internationally because of his family.~~

✓ Kevin says he stopped travelling internationally because of his family.

4b Punctuation Correction**05 Marks**~~✗ "It isn't fair!" shouted Martin. Coach Lewis never lets me start the game!"~~

✓ "It isn't fair!" shouted Martin. "Coach Lewis never lets me start the game!"

~~✗ Maureen's three sisters, Molly, Shannon, and Patricia are all spending the summer at their grandmother's beach house.~~

✓ Maureen's three sisters, Molly, Shannon, and Patricia, are all spending the summer at their grandmother's beach house.

~~✗ For the centrepieces, the florist recommended the following flowers daisies, tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths.~~

✓ For the centrepieces, the florist recommended the following flowers: daisies, tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths.

~~✗ Lily is an accomplished gymnast she won three medals in her last competition.~~

✓ Lily is an accomplished gymnast; she won three medals in her last competition.

~~✗ Everyone was shocked when Max Smithfield — a studious, extremely bright high school senior decided that college was not for him.~~

✓ Everyone was shocked when Max Smithfield - a studious, extremely bright high school senior - decided that college was not for him.

5a Analogies — Original Options, Correct Answer Ticked (any FIVE)**05 Marks****(i) SLAPSTICK : LAUGHTER**

- (a) Fallacy : Dismay (b) Genre : Mystery (c) Satire : Anger **✓ (d) Horror : Fear**

(ii) CONVICTION : INCARCERATION

- ✓ (a) Reduction : Diminution** (b) Induction : Amelioration (c) Radicalization : Estimation
(d) Marginalization : Intimidation

(iii) PROFESSOR : ERUDITE

- (a) Aviator : Licensed **✓ (b) Inventor : Imaginative** (c) Procrastinator : Conscientious (d) Overseer : Wealthy

(iv) METAPHOR : SYMBOL

- (a) Pentameter : Poem (b) Rhythm : Melody (c) Nuance : Song **✓ (d) Analogy : Comparison**

(v) SPY : CLANDESTINE

- ✓ (a) Accountant : Meticulous** (b) Furrier : Rambunctious (c) Lawyer : Ironical (d) Shepherd : Garrulous

(vi) VERVE : ENTHUSIASM

- (a) Loyalty : Duplicity **✓ (b) Devotion : Reverence** (c) Intensity : Colour (d) Eminence : Anonymity

(vii) DELTOID : MUSCLE

- ✓ (a) Radius : Bone** (b) Brain : Nerve (c) Tissue : Organ (d) Blood : Vein

(viii) DEPENDABLE : CAPRICIOUS

- (a) Fallible : Cantankerous (b) Erasable : Obtuse (c) Malleable : Limpid **✓ (d) Capable : Inept**

Exam instruction requires only FIVE; all eight are solved above for complete practice.

5b Dialogue Rewritten in Paragraph (Indirect Speech) Form**05 Marks****MODEL ANSWER**

Helen asked Mr. West what had happened to John. He replied that John had left the company. Helen asked why he had done that, and Mr. West explained that John had asked him for a rise, but he had not given it to him. When Helen asked why he had not given him a rise, Mr. West said it was because John had been lazy. Helen then asked if John had found another job, and Mr. West replied that he had, and that he was working in a film company. Helen asked what his salary was like, and Mr. West said he thought John earned quite a lot. Finally, Helen asked whether John liked the new job, and Mr. West said he did not know.

6a Difference Between Word Pairs (any FIVE)**05 Marks**

Adverse — unfavourable or harmful. "The team suffered from adverse weather during the match." | **Averse** — strongly opposed or disinclined. "He is averse to taking unnecessary risks."

Altogether — entirely, completely. "The plan was altogether unrealistic." | **All together** — everyone/everything in one place at once. "The family gathered all together for the reunion."

Allude — to refer to something indirectly. "She alluded to the problem without naming anyone." | **Elude** — to escape or avoid skilfully. "The thief managed to elude the police for weeks."

Faze — to disturb or disconcert. "Nothing seems to faze him, even a hostile crowd." | **Phase** — a distinct stage in a process. "The project is currently in its planning phase."

Moat — a deep, wide trench around a castle, usually filled with water. "Tourists admired the ancient moat surrounding the fortress." | **Mote** — a tiny particle, especially of dust. "A mote of dust floated in the sunbeam."

6b Idioms Used in Sentences (any FIVE)**05 Marks**

Smash hit — The new film turned out to be a smash hit at the box office.

Wooden spoon — Despite playing well all season, the team ended up with the wooden spoon after losing the final match.

Go bananas — The crowd went bananas when the home team scored the winning goal.

Beard the lion in his den — Determined to resolve the dispute, she decided to beard the lion in his den and confront the manager directly in his office.

Chicken out — He was going to go skydiving, but he chickened out at the last moment.

7 Urdu to English Translation**10 Marks****ORIGINAL URDU PASSAGE**

عام لوگوں کا خیال ہے کہ ملک کے قانون اور فرد کی آزادی ایک دوسرے کی ضد ہوتے ہیں۔ بظاہر یہ بات غلط معلوم نہیں ہوتی۔ ہر قانون

MODEL ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Common people believe that the law of the land and individual freedom stand opposed to one another. On the face of it, this does not seem an unreasonable view, for every law imposes some restriction or another upon citizens. The greater the number of laws in a country, the greater the overall restrictions tend to be, and under the weight of excessive restrictions, individual freedom is left suppressed. Conversely, where the number of laws is fewer, the scope of citizens' freedom becomes correspondingly wider.