



FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

CSS 2017

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 "Abundant":

- (a) Scarce **✓ (b) Plentiful** (c) Meager (d) Limited

2. Choose the correct antonym of "Humble":

- (a) Modest **✓ (b) Arrogant** (c) Meek (d) Shy

3. One who leaves his own country to settle in another is called:

- (a) Immigrant **✓ (b) Emigrant** (c) Migrant (d) Refugee

4. Choose the correctly spelled word:

- (a) Occurence **✓ (b) Occurrence** (c) Occurance (d) Ocurrence

5. Choose the correct synonym of "Diligent":

- (a) Lazy **✓ (b) Hardworking** (c) Careless (d) Slow

6. The idiom "to burn the midnight oil" means:

- (a) To waste time **✓ (b) To work late into the night** (c) To start a fire (d) To relax

7. Choose the correct antonym of "Optimistic":

- (a) Hopeful **✓ (b) Pessimistic** (c) Confident (d) Cheerful

8. Choose the correct preposition: "She was accused ___ theft."

- ✓ (a) of** (b) for (c) with (d) about

9. One who is new to a job or activity is called:

- (a) Veteran **✓ (b) Novice** (c) Expert (d) Master

10. Choose the correct synonym of "Eloquent":

- (a) Silent **✓ (b) Articulate** (c) Confused (d) Awkward

11. Choose the grammatically correct sentence:

- (a) Neither Ali nor his friends was late **✓ (b) Neither Ali nor his friends were late**
(c) Neither Ali or his friends were late (d) Neither Ali nor his friend were late

12. Choose the correct antonym of "Generous":

- (a) Kind **✓ (b) Stingy** (c) Charitable (d) Giving

13. Government by the wealthy is called:

(a) Democracy ☒ (b) Plutocracy (c) Aristocracy (d) Theocracy

14. Choose the correct synonym of "Naive":

(a) Sophisticated ☒ (b) Innocent (c) Cunning (d) Experienced

15. Choose the correctly spelled word:

(a) Embarass ☒ (b) Embarrass (c) Embaras (d) Embarras

16. The idiom "to cost an arm and a leg" means:

(a) To be cheap ☒ (b) To be very expensive (c) To be painful (d) To be dangerous

17. Choose the correct antonym of "Transparent":

(a) Clear ☒ (b) Opaque (c) Visible (d) Obvious

18. Choose the correct article: "___ MA degree is required for this job."

(a) A ☒ (b) An (c) The (d) No article

19. A person who repairs and studies clocks and watches is called:

(a) Watchmaker ☒ (b) Horologist (c) Jeweler (d) Mechanic

20. Choose the correct synonym of "Ponder":

(a) Ignore ☒ (b) Contemplate (c) Forget (d) Dismiss

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

Contrary to common belief, the evils of the world stem not from laziness but from restless people who act without knowing when or what they truly ought to do. Even the devil, forever busy, despises wasted time. What the world lacks is not activity but kindness and calm reflection, since its abundant energy is simply misdirected. Historical episodes — such as restless statesmen rushing into the First World War or hurrying to the Versailles conference — suggest humanity would have fared better had its leaders paused and done nothing for a while. Even today, politicians and religious conference-goers, absorbed in trivial disputes, would serve the world better by resting and recovering their mental balance, rather than compulsively pursuing ceaseless activity.

*Word count: 116 words***Suggested Title: "The Virtue of Doing Nothing"**

3 Comprehension — Education, Beauty & the Artist

20 Marks

(1) What has been lamented in the text?

The writer laments that the aesthetic sense — once common to every human being — has been reduced to the exclusive domain of a few painters and sculptors, while ordinary people and workmen have lost the desire to create or demand beauty in their everyday lives and work.

(2) What is the difference between an ordinary man and an artist?

The artist is not fundamentally different from the ordinary man; both share the same innate capacity for aesthetic and moral sensitivity. The difference lies only in degree — the artist exercises this awareness of beauty more consciously, precisely, and continuously than the average person, who neglects this shared human faculty.

(3) How can we make our lives beautiful and charming?

We can make our lives beautiful by recognizing and valuing the aesthetic activity of the spirit in everything we do and make, insisting on beauty in our work and possessions just as we value morality in our actions, thereby restoring art to the fabric of everyday life.

(4) What does the writer mean by "Beauty is not an ornament to life"?

The writer means that beauty is not a mere decorative extra added on for those who can afford it; rather, it is an essential, inseparable part of life and of everything humans make, without which existence remains spiritually incomplete.

(5) Do art and beauty affect our practical life and morals? Agree or disagree, with reasons.

Yes, I agree. The writer argues that aesthetic activity parallels moral activity, shaping objects just as morality shapes actions. Work devoid of beauty reflects an unsatisfied spiritual desire and is a waste of life, just as action devoid of truth is harmful — showing that beauty and morality are practically and spiritually interconnected, not separate concerns.

4a Sentence Correction (any FIVE)**05 Marks**~~✗ In the accident one of my arms was broken and my legs bruised.~~

✓ In the accident, one of my arms was broken and one of my legs was bruised.

~~✗ The people who had been raising slogans against the government for many hours they wanted increase in their salaries.~~

✓ The people who had been raising slogans against the government for many hours wanted an increase in their salaries.

~~✗ You have been working very hard for the last two years. Isn't it?~~

✓ You have been working very hard for the last two years, haven't you?

~~✗ John could hardly do no better than to have caught a bass of such dimensions.~~

✓ John could hardly have done better than to catch a bass of such dimensions.

~~✗ I who have no chance to meet him would rather go with you instead of sitting at home.~~

✓ I, who have no chance to meet him, would rather go with you than sit at home.

4b Fill in the Blanks — Original Options, Correct Answer Ticked**05 Marks****(i) I cannot buy this car ____ this price.**

(a) for (b) in ✓ (c) at (d) on

(ii) Send these books ____ my home address.

(a) on (b) at (c) in ✓ (d) to

(iii) Monkeys live ____ trees.

✓ (a) in (b) at (c) upon (d) on

(iv) I said it ____ his face.

(a) at (b) on ✓ (c) to (d) upon

(v) The manager ____ the receipt of my letter promptly.

(a) accepted (b) realized (c) recognized ✓ (d) acknowledged

(vi) Most foreign students don't like American coffee, and ____ .

(a) I don't too (b) either don't (c) neither don't I ✓ (d) neither do I

(vii) We ____ take care of our parents when they are old.

(a) could (b) would (c) might ✓ (d) ought to

(viii) Yousaf ____ in the garden the whole of yesterday.

(a) has dug

(b) was digging

✓ (c) dug

(d) had dug

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

- (a) Snake : Slither ☒ (b) Goat : Bleat (c) Lizard : Crawl (d) Elephant : Tusk

(ii) SHADOW : LIGHT

- (a) Flood : Rain ☒ (b) Image : Object (c) Reaction : Action (d) House : Bricks

(iii) CLOT : BLOOD

- (a) Ink : Water ☒ (b) Curdle : Milk (c) Vaporize : Camphor (d) Brew : Coffee

(iv) FEARFUL : COWER

- (a) Humble : Boast (b) Weak : Exercise ☒ (c) Arrogant : Strut (d) Wise : Dispute

(v) EXPEDITE : HASTEN

- (a) Conscript : Write down (b) Diver : Make harder ☒ (c) Facilitate : Make easiest (d) Satirize : Praise

(vi) WOOD : FURNITURE

- (a) Father : Child (b) Tree : Seedling (c) Soil : Clay ☒ (d) Stone : Sculpture

(vii) SURGEON : DEXTEROUS

- (a) Clown : Fat (b) Actress : Beautiful (c) Athlete : Tall ☒ (d) Acrobat : Agile

(viii) LECHER : LUST

- (a) Pith : Herb ☒ (b) Glutton : Greed (c) Business : Profit (d) Showbiz : Fame

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

5b Punctuation Correction**05 Marks****CORRECTLY PUNCTUATED PASSAGE**

A Quaker was one day walking on a country road. He was suddenly met by a highwayman pointing a pistol. The man exclaimed, "Your money or your life!" "My friend," said the Quaker, "I cannot deliver my money, for I should be helping thee in evildoing; however, exchange is lawful, and I will give thee my purse for the pistol." The robber agreed, and on receiving the purse, the Quaker at once held the pistol at the robber's head and said, "Now, friend, my purse back, or the weapon may go off!" "Fire!" said the robber. "There is no powder in the pistol."

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

Wrath — intense anger. "He hid his temper for fear of provoking his father's wrath." | **Wroth** — an old-fashioned word meaning angry. "It was plain to see that he was now extremely wroth."

Veracity — truthfulness or accuracy. "The officials expressed doubts about the veracity of his story." | **Voracity** — extreme greed or eagerness, especially for food. "The voracity of the crowd for free samples surprised the vendors."

Subtler — comparative of subtle, meaning more delicate or elusive. "His second argument was subtler than his first." | **Sutler** — historically, a civilian who sold provisions to soldiers in a camp. "The sutler followed the army, selling food and supplies."

Minute — extremely small. "The scientist studied a minute sample under the microscope." | **Minuet** — a slow, formal ballroom dance. "The couple performed a graceful minuet at the ball."

Furor — intense anger or public outrage. "The scandal caused a furor among the shareholders." | **Furore** — the British spelling meaning a widespread commotion or excitement. "The announcement created quite a furore in the media."

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

Spirit away — The magician appeared to spirit away his assistant in front of the stunned audience.

Plough back — The company decided to plough back most of its profits into new research.

Eager beaver — The new intern was such an eager beaver that she finished her tasks before anyone else arrived.

Ring a bell — Her name doesn't ring a bell, though I may have met her once before.

Over the moon — The whole family was over the moon when they heard the good news.

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

اپنے پوشیدہ عیبوں کو معلوم کرنے کے لیے یہ دیکھنا ضروری ہے کہ ہمارے دشمن ہم کو کیا کہتے ہیں۔ ہمارے دوست اکثر ہمارے دل کے موافق

MODEL ENGLISH TRANSLATION

To discover our hidden faults, it is essential to consider what our enemies say about us. Our friends usually praise us in ways that please our hearts — either because they genuinely do not see our faults as faults, or because they hold our feelings so dear that, wishing not to hurt us, they conceal these flaws or simply overlook them. Our enemy, by contrast, searches us thoroughly, digging out our faults from every corner; and although he may exaggerate a small failing out of hostility, there is usually some truth behind his charge. A friend always magnifies his friend's virtues, while an enemy magnifies his faults. For this reason, we ought to be more grateful to our enemy, since it is he who makes us aware of our shortcomings. Viewed in this light, an enemy proves more valuable than a friend.

End of Solved Paper — CSS 2017 English (Précis & Composition) — Prepared for aspirant practice and revision.