



FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

CSS 2018

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 "Adamant":

- (a) Flexible **✓ (b) Stubborn** (c) Weak (d) Gentle

2. Choose the correct antonym of "Timid":

- (a) Shy **✓ (b) Bold** (c) Nervous (d) Fearful

3. One who hates or opposes marriage is called:

- ✓ (a) Misogamist** (b) Misanthrope (c) Misogynist (d) Bachelor

4. Choose the correctly spelled word:

- (a) Maintainance **✓ (b) Maintenance** (c) Maintainence (d) Maintenance

5. Choose the correct synonym of "Sagacious":

- (a) Foolish **✓ (b) Wise** (c) Naive (d) Ignorant

6. The idiom "to throw in the towel" means:

- (a) To start a fight **✓ (b) To give up** (c) To clean up (d) To celebrate

7. Choose the correct antonym of "Benign":

- (a) Kind **✓ (b) Malignant** (c) Gentle (d) Mild

8. Choose the correct preposition: "He was deprived ___ his rights."

- ✓ (a) of** (b) from (c) by (d) with

9. That which cannot be defeated or overcome is called:

- ✓ (a) Invincible** (b) Inevitable (c) Invisible (d) Inconceivable

10. Choose the correct synonym of "Frugal":

- (a) Wasteful **✓ (b) Thrifty** (c) Extravagant (d) Generous

11. Choose the grammatically correct sentence:

- (a) Each of the boys have a pen **✓ (b) Each of the boys has a pen** (c) Each of the boy has a pen
(d) Each of the boys having a pen

12. Choose the correct antonym of "Compassionate":

- (a) Kind **✓ (b) Ruthless** (c) Caring (d) Sympathetic

13. Choose the correct synonym of "Perpetual":

(a) Temporary **✓ (b) Everlasting** (c) Brief (d) Occasional

14. Choose the correct synonym of "Gullible":

(a) Skeptical **✓ (b) Credulous** (c) Cautious (d) Suspicious

15. Choose the correctly spelled word:

(a) Persistant **✓ (b) Persistent** (c) Persistint (d) Persistunt

16. The idiom "to jump on the bandwagon" means:

(a) To lead a movement **✓ (b) To join a popular trend** (c) To oppose something (d) To travel by wagon

17. Choose the correct antonym of "Meticulous":

(a) Careful **✓ (b) Careless** (c) Precise (d) Thorough

18. Choose the correct article: "___ *one-eyed man was king in that land.*"

✓ (a) A (b) An (c) The (d) No article

19. A person who studies ancient fossils is called:

(a) Archaeologist **✓ (b) Paleontologist** (c) Geologist (d) Anthropologist

20. Choose the correct synonym of "Placate":

(a) Anger **✓ (b) Appease** (c) Provoke (d) Irritate

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

Cold climates, particularly in temperate northern Europe, stimulate human energy by presenting surmountable obstacles that call our powers into action, whereas both extreme cold and excessive heat numb exertion by offering either insurmountable despair or no resistance at all. In moderately cold regions, man must labour to build shelter, gather fuel, and secure nourishing food, keeping his energies vigorously engaged. In contrast, tropical inhabitants near the equator face few such demands; minimal clothing, fire, or food suffice for comfortable survival, requiring little exertion from the generous earth. This same contrast appears seasonally within individuals: hot weather induces laziness and ease, while cold weather rouses us toward more vigorous mental and physical activity.

Word count: 122 words

Suggested Title: "Climate and Human Energy"

3 Comprehension — Civilization, Machines & Poverty

20 Marks

(1) In what sense have machines become our masters instead of servants?

Humanity has grown so dependent on machines for daily functioning that people must constantly serve and maintain them — feeding them fuel, keeping them at the right temperature, and attending to their needs — just as one would serve a demanding master, rather than machines simply serving human convenience.

(2) Why does the author see the leisure and energy from machines as a curse rather than a blessing?

Instead of using the extra time and energy that machines provide for higher purposes — creating beauty, gaining knowledge, ending conflict, or eliminating poverty — people merely use this surplus to build more and better machines, perpetuating an endless cycle that produces no real civilizational progress, only more machinery.

(3) What exactly is the meaning of 'civilization'? Do you agree with the author's views?

According to the author, civilization means making and valuing beautiful things, thinking freely, living rightly, and maintaining justice between people — not merely accumulating scientific power or machinery. I agree with this view, since true progress should be measured by human and moral development rather than technological accumulation alone.

(4) What does 'making more beautiful things' mean? List some examples.

It means directing human creativity toward things of aesthetic, intellectual, or moral value rather than mere utility. Examples include: writing meaningful literature through sustained study and reflection, creating public art and gardens through community initiatives, designing humane architecture through thoughtful urban planning, and composing music through education in the arts.

(5) Mention some plans to prevent poverty. Who deserves the most particular attention, and why?

Useful plans include expanding access to quality education and vocational training, ensuring fair wages and labour protections, improving healthcare access, and investing in rural infrastructure and employment. Children and the extreme poor in remote areas deserve the most particular attention, since early intervention in their lives yields the most lasting impact on breaking generational cycles of poverty.

4a Sentence Correction (any FIVE)**05 Marks**

~~✗ They only work when they have no money.~~

✓ They work only when they have no money.

~~✗ I cannot by no means allow you to do so.~~

✓ I cannot by any means allow you to do so.

~~✗ Going up the hill, an old temple was seen.~~

✓ Going up the hill, we saw an old temple.

~~✗ I was rather impressed by the manner of the orator than by his matter.~~

✓ I was impressed rather by the manner of the orator than by his matter.

~~✗ What an awful weather!~~

✓ What awful weather!

4b Punctuation Correction**05 Marks**

~~✗ There is a slavery that no legislation can abolish the slavery of caste.~~

✓ There is a slavery that no legislation can abolish: the slavery of caste.

~~✗ All that I am all that I hope to be I owe to my angel mother.~~

✓ All that I am, all that I hope to be, I owe to my angel mother.

~~✗ Take away that bauble said Cromwell pointing to the mace which lay upon the table.~~

✓ "Take away that bauble," said Cromwell, pointing to the mace which lay upon the table.

~~✗ There is only one cure for the evils which newly acquired freedom produces and that cure is freedom.~~

✓ There is only one cure for the evils which newly acquired freedom produces; and that cure is freedom.

~~✗ History it has been said is the essence of innumerable biographies.~~

✓ History, it has been said, is the essence of innumerable biographies.

5a Prepositions — Original Options, Correct Answer Ticked (any FIVE)**05 Marks****(i) _____ a Ford he has a Fiat car.**(a) in (b) before **✓ (c) besides** (d) despite**(ii) I saw him felling a big tree _____ a hatchet.****✓ (a) with** (b) through (c) by (d) at**(iii) I must start _____ dawn to reach the station in time.**(a) on **✓ (b) at** (c) by (d) after**(iv) I have known him _____ a long time.**(a) since (b) from **✓ (c) for** (d) over**(v) "Will you walk _____ my parlour?"**(a) in (b) to (c) by **✓ (d) into****(vi) The public are cautioned _____ pickpockets.****✓ (a) against** (b) about (c) of (d) for*Exam instruction requires only FIVE; all six are solved above for complete practice.***5b Dialogue Rewritten in Paragraph (Indirect Speech) Form****05 Marks****MODEL ANSWER**

Jack greeted Swarup and remarked that he was swotting away as usual, urging him to come out, shut his books, and join him for a game of tennis. Swarup replied that he was sorry he could not do that, explaining that the examination was drawing near and he wanted every hour he could get for study. Jack exclaimed that examinations could be hanged, adding that he did not worry about his own and questioning what use they were anyway. Swarup responded that one could not get a degree without passing the examination, and that he had set his heart on becoming a graduate. Jack asked what good graduation would do him, pointing out that he might at best get a clerkship in a government office, and that there were hundreds of men who held degrees yet were no nearer to finding jobs of any sort. Swarup conceded that this might be true, but said he was not studying merely to pass his examination and obtain his degree, but rather to store his mind with knowledge and develop his intellectual faculties.

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

Callous — emotionally hardened, unsympathetic. "His callous remark showed no concern for her feelings."
| **Callus** — a hardened area of skin. "Years of manual labour left a thick callus on his palm."

Born — brought into life by birth. "She was born in a small village in the north." | **Borne** — carried or endured. "The cost of the project was borne entirely by the government."

Faint — lacking strength; likely to lose consciousness. "She felt faint after standing in the heat all day." |
Feint — a deceptive or pretended action. "The boxer used a feint to distract his opponent before striking."

Lose — to fail to keep or win something. "Try not to lose your keys again." | **Loose** — not tight or fixed firmly. "The screw had come loose over time."

Waiver — the voluntary giving up of a right or claim. "He signed a waiver before participating in the extreme sport." | **Waver** — to hesitate or become unsteady. "Her voice began to waver as she recalled the accident."

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

Show and tell — The children brought their favourite toys to school for show and tell.

Helter-skelter — When the fire alarm rang, everyone ran helter-skelter out of the building.

Tilt at windmills — Trying to change the company's rigid bureaucracy alone felt like tilting at windmills.

Het up — There's no need to get so het up about a minor delay in the schedule.

It's about time — It's about time the city addressed its crumbling infrastructure.

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

لاہور شہر سیاست ہی نہیں ثقافت کا بھی قدیم مرکز ہے۔ مغلوں کی ثقافت نے عروج کا زمانہ اس شہر میں دیکھا۔ سکھ ثقافت کا بھی یہی

MODEL ENGLISH TRANSLATION

The city of Lahore has long been a centre not only of politics but of culture as well. It was here that Mughal culture witnessed its golden age, and the same city also served as the hub of Sikh culture. The culture of learning and literature, too, found its home in this city, which was likewise a great centre for the mystics of Sufism. Hazrat Ali Hajveri, renowned as Hazrat Data Ganj Bakhsh and author of the celebrated Sufi treatise Kashf-ul-Mahjoob, lies buried in this very city. Even during the era of British rule, Lahore's fashions set the trend across the whole of India, and since the creation of Pakistan, the city's importance has in no way diminished.