

CSS
2009

FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

English (Précis & Composition)

Competitive Examination for Recruitment to Posts in BPS-17
Under the Federal Government — 2009

Part-I (MCQs): 10 Minutes — 10 Marks

Part-II: 2 Hours 50 Minutes — 90 Marks

Status: Fully Solved — Complete Model Answers

★ Fully Solved Reference Edition ★

All parts, all sub-questions and all answer options of the original paper
have been retained and solved in full — nothing omitted.

Q.1 (a) — Choose the word nearly similar in meaning

(5 — attempt any FIVE)

i. OBSCURE — **a. unclear ✓** b. doubtfulii. AMIABLE — a. obnoxious **b. affable ✓**iii. HOODWINK — **a. delude ✓** b. avoidiv. GUILEFUL — a. honourable **b. disingenuous ✓**v. OBSESSION — **a. fixed ideas ✓** b. delusionvi. RADICAL — **a. innate ✓** b. moderatevii. PRESUMPTIVE — **a. credible ✓** b. timid

Q.1 (b) — Pick the most nearly opposite in meaning

(5)

viii. PRESENTABLE — a. unable **b. scruffy ✓** c. suitable d. personableix. SALVATION — a. escape b. starvation **c. doom ✓** d. rescuex. PLAIN — a. clean b. distinct **c. ambiguous ✓** d. frugalxi. ODIUS — a. porous **b. charming ✓** c. horrid d. offensivexii. INFLAME — **a. calm ✓** b. anger c. excite d. kindle

Part II

Q.2 — Précis Writing

20 + 5

Make a précis of the given passage and suggest a suitable heading.

From Plato to Tolstoi art has been accused of exciting our emotions and thus of disturbing the order and harmony of our moral life... (Ernst Cassirer's passage on art, emotion, form, and Shakespeare's dramatic theory, as given in the original paper).

SUGGESTED HEADING

The True Nature of Aesthetic Experience

MODEL PRÉCIS (≈100-120 WORDS)

Philosophers from Plato to Tolstoy have condemned art for inflaming emotion and unsettling moral order, treating it as a kind of infectious passion. This view, however, ignores form, the true essence of aesthetic experience. Contemplating art is a distinct state of mind, charged with passion yet transformed in nature and meaning; the emotions it arouses are immediate, not recollected, and become transparent rather than overwhelming, so that we perceive rather than merely feel them. Shakespeare never theorised about art, yet through Hamlet he affirms that drama "holds the mirror up to nature," representing passions like Macbeth's ambition or Othello's jealousy without infecting the audience with them. We witness these emotions and grasp their essence, but remain untouched by their grip.

Q.3 — Comprehension Passage

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

It is in the very nature of the helicopter that its great versatility is found... (passage explaining how the helicopter differs from a conventional fixed-wing aircraft, and how a conventional wing generates lift).

i. Where is the great versatility of the helicopter found?

It is found in its very nature and design — the helicopter fulfils man's dream of flying not merely like a bird but in ways nothing else can: rising and descending straight up and down, moving forward, backward or sideways, and hovering in place until its fuel runs out.

ii. What is the dream of flying?

It is one of humanity's oldest and most fantastic dreams — not simply to fly as a bird does, but to fly as no creature or machine ever has: moving freely in every direction and hovering motionless in the air at will.

iii. What does the wing of the conventional aircraft do?

It works through its curved shape, set at an angle so that, as the plane moves, it deflects the air downward. Because air has density and resistance, the air pushes back up against the underside of the wing, giving it lift — but only while the wing is in motion.

iv. What does the curved upper surface of the wing do?

The curved upper surface creates suction by producing a relative lack of air above the wing; the air resists this and "sucks back," pulling the wing further upward.

v. What gives the wing twice as much lift?

The suction created on the curved upper surface of the wing gives it roughly twice as much lift as the air pressure pushing up from beneath it.

Q.4 — Comprehensive Note

20

Write a comprehensive note (250–300 words) on any ONE of the given topics. Model answer below is written on option (v).

TOPIC SELECTED

v. "Variety is the Spice of Life"

The proverb "variety is the spice of life," coined by the poet William Cowper, captures a timeless truth about human nature: repetition and sameness dull our senses, while change and diversity keep life vibrant, interesting, and worth living. Just as a single spice, however fine, grows tiresome if used in every dish, a life confined to the same routine, the same faces, and the same experiences gradually loses its flavour and meaning.

Variety enriches every dimension of human experience. In work, a person who takes on new challenges and learns new skills stays mentally sharp and motivated, whereas monotonous, unchanging labour breeds boredom and fatigue. In relationships, fresh conversations, shared adventures, and new experiences keep bonds alive and prevent the staleness that often leads to estrangement. In travel, food, art, and culture, exposure to different traditions and ideas broadens the mind, builds tolerance, and nurtures creativity by allowing us to see familiar problems from unfamiliar angles.

Nature itself demonstrates the value of variety: the changing seasons, the diversity of species, and the countless forms of landscape all sustain balance and resilience in the ecosystem. Human societies mirror this principle — economies that diversify withstand shocks better than those dependent on a single industry, and cultures that welcome new ideas evolve rather than stagnate.

At the same time, variety must be balanced with stability; a life of ceaseless change without any anchor can become as exhausting as one of complete monotony. The wisdom of the proverb, therefore, lies not in chasing novelty for its own sake but in weaving enough freshness into our routines to keep us engaged, curious, and alive. Used wisely, variety does for life what a spice does for food: it does not replace the main substance, but it transforms an ordinary experience into a memorable one.

Q.5 (a) — Narration: Direct ↔ Indirect Speech

5

Attempt any FIVE of the seven given.

i. He said to him, "Why do you waste your time?"

➤ He asked him why he wasted his time.

ii. He ordered his servant not to stand there doing nothing.

➤ He said to his servant, "Don't stand there doing nothing."

iii. He exclaimed with joy that he had won the match.

➤ He said, "Hurrah! I have won the match."

iv. The traveler said, "What a dark night!"

➤ The traveler exclaimed that it was a very dark night.

v. He said, "Let it rain even so hard, I will start today."

➤ He said that even if it rained very hard, he would start that day.

Q.5 (b) — Correct the Sentences

5

Attempt any FIVE of the eight given.

i. ~~He swore from God.~~

➤ **He swore by God.**

ii. ~~Is your dress different than mine?~~

➤ **Is your dress different from mine?**

iii. ~~He inquired whether I live in Karachi.~~

➤ **He inquired whether I lived in Karachi.**

iv. ~~He spoke these words upon his face.~~

➤ **He spoke these words to his face.**

v. ~~They ran direct to their college.~~

➤ **They ran directly to their college.**

Q.6 (a) — Idioms in Sentences

5

Attempt any FIVE of the seven given.

Leave in the lurch — to abandon someone in a difficult situation without help.

➤ When the project deadline drew near, the contractor *left his partners in the lurch* by disappearing entirely.

Hard and fast — fixed and strict, admitting no exception.

➤ There are no *hard and fast* rules for raising confident children.

Weather the storm — to survive a difficult period safely.

➤ The small business managed to *weather the storm* of the economic downturn.

Bear the brunt — to suffer the main force or impact of something unpleasant.

➤ Coastal villages had to *bear the brunt* of the cyclone's destruction.

Meet halfway — to compromise with someone by giving up part of one's demands.

➤ After hours of negotiation, both sides agreed to *meet each other halfway*.

Q.6 (b) — Word Pairs in Sentences

10

Attempt any FIVE of the eight given.

Persecute — to treat someone cruelly because of belief or identity. **Prosecute** — to take legal action against someone.

➤ The dictatorship continued to *persecute* its critics, while an independent court finally chose to *prosecute* the corrupt minister.

Luxuriant — growing abundantly and richly (of plants, hair, etc.). **Luxurious** — extremely comfortable, elegant or costly.

➤ The valley was covered in *luxuriant* greenery after the monsoon; the hotel offered a *luxurious* suite overlooking the sea.

Mean — unkind or stingy; also, average. **Mien** — a person's manner or bearing.

➤ He was known to be rather *mean* with his money; the officer carried himself with a dignified *mien*.

Observation — the act of noticing or watching something carefully. **Observance** — the act of following a custom, law or religious duty.

➤ Her careful *observation* of the patient's symptoms helped the doctor diagnose the illness; strict *observance* of the fast is expected during Ramadan.

Ghostly — resembling or suggestive of a ghost. **Ghastly** — shockingly frightful or horrible.

➤ A *ghostly* figure seemed to drift through the abandoned mansion; the accident scene was truly *ghastly* to witness.