

CSS
2010

FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

English (Précis & Composition)

Competitive Examination for Recruitment to Posts in BPS-17
Under the Federal Government — 2010

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 four MCQ options of the original paper have been retained exactly as given — correct options highlighted, nothing omitted.

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

(5 — do any FIVE)

i. ACRIMONIOUS

- a. Bitter ✓ b. Provocative c. Cheap d. Volatile

ii. CALLIGRAPHY

- a. Computers b. Handwriting ✓ c. Blood pressure d. Brain waves

iii. UNEQUIVOCAL

- a. Variable b. Plain c. Unmistakable ✓ d. Negligent

iv. DEMISE

- a. Conclude b. End c. Affection d. Death ✓

v. INCENDIARY

- a. Happy b. Sneer c. Causing fire ✓ d. Jolly

vi. TOUCHSTONE

- a. Remind b. A hall c. At rest d. Criterion ✓

vii. VOID

- a. Emptiness ✓ b. Lea c. Anger d. Trick

viii. ESSAY

- a. Direct b. Compose c. Attempt ✓ d. Suppose

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

(5 — do only FIVE)

i. IGNOBLE

- a. Lowly b. Vile c. Good d. Noble ✓

ii. MELANCHOLY

- a. Sorrowful b. Happy ✓ c. Forbidden d. Brisk

iii. OBLITERATE

- a. Preserve ✓ b. Destroy c. Ravage d. Design

iv. ALLY

- a. Alloy b. Foe ✓ c. Partner d. Accessory

v. VULGAR

- a. Coarse b. Gross c. Exquisite ✓ d. Obscene

vi. PRETEND

- a. Sham b. Substantiate ✓ c. Feign d. Fabricate

vii. LIBERTY

- a. Permission b. Licence c. Serfdom ✓ d. Bound

viii. CONSCIENTIOUS

- a. Uncorrupt b. Honourable c. Principled d. Profligate ✓

Q.2 — Précis Writing

20 + 5

Write a précis of the following passage in about 100 words and suggest a suitable title.

Of all the characteristics of ordinary human nature envy is the most unfortunate... (Bertrand Russell's passage on envy, its causes, and its cure through happiness and admiration).

SUGGESTED TITLE

Envy and Its Cure

MODEL PRÉCIS (≈100 WORDS)

Envy, perhaps the most unfortunate of human traits, harms both its target and the envious person, who feels pain at others' good fortune rather than pleasure in his own. Left unchecked, it resents even the just rewards of skill and destroys all excellence, finding no answer to why the deserving should enjoy their advantages. Its natural counter is admiration, which anyone seeking to increase human happiness must cultivate. While saints may conquer envy through selflessness, ordinary people can escape it only through happiness itself — though envy is a major obstacle to that very happiness. Still, understanding its roots is a real step toward a cure.

Q.3 — Comprehension Passage

20

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

And still it moves. The words of Galileo, murmured when the tortures of the Inquisition had driven him to recant the Truth he knew... (passage urging each generation to continue questioning old truths and working for human progress).

i. What made Galileo recant the Truth he knew?

The brutal torture and persecution inflicted on him by the Inquisition forced Galileo to publicly renounce the scientific truth he knew to be correct, even though he privately continued to believe it.

ii. What is the heritage being alluded to in the first paragraph?

It refers to the vast body of knowledge, comfort, and progress that earlier generations achieved and passed down to us through great personal sacrifice, making life on the planet happier and more worthwhile.

iii. What does the 'betrayal of our trust' imply?

It implies that if we merely settle down to enjoy the achievements handed to us by earlier generations, without continuing their work of discovery and improvement, we fail the responsibility they entrusted to us to keep advancing humanity.

iv. Why do we need to question the old truths and work for the new ones?

Because progress depends on each generation continuing to challenge accepted ideas rather than settling into complacency; only by risking scorn, hardship and even persecution can humanity keep moving toward a better future instead of stagnating under the excuse that "human nature will never alter."

v. Explain the words or expressions as highlighted/underlined in the passage.

"And still it moves" — Galileo's defiant remark affirming that the earth continues to revolve around the sun regardless of the Church's coerced recantation; it symbolises the unstoppable nature of truth and progress, however much it may be suppressed for a time.

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

Hope has long been described as the buoy that keeps the vessel of life afloat amid the storms of hardship, loss and uncertainty. Just as a buoy prevents a sinking ship from disappearing beneath the waves, hope prevents the human spirit from drowning in despair when circumstances turn adverse. It is not a guarantee that difficulties will vanish, but rather the inner conviction that better days lie ahead, giving people the strength to endure the present.

Throughout history, hope has sustained individuals and nations through their darkest hours. Prisoners of war have survived years of captivity by clinging to the hope of freedom; nations devastated by conflict or disaster have rebuilt themselves because their people refused to abandon the belief in a better future. In personal life, a patient battling serious illness, a student facing repeated failure, or an entrepreneur recovering from bankruptcy all draw on hope as the psychological fuel that keeps them moving forward rather than giving up.

Hope also has a social dimension: leaders who inspire hope in their followers can mobilise extraordinary collective effort, while the absence of hope breeds apathy, despair and even social unrest. Importantly, hope is different from blind optimism; it does not deny the reality of difficulty but chooses to act constructively in spite of it. It moves people to plan, to work, and to persevere, rather than simply wait passively for good fortune.

Without hope, life's inevitable setbacks — illness, loss, failure, disappointment — would overwhelm the human spirit entirely. With it, the same setbacks become obstacles to be overcome rather than reasons to give up. In this sense, hope truly functions as the buoy of life: unseen much of the time, yet indispensable in keeping every person afloat through the roughest waters they must cross.

Q.5 (a) — Idioms in Sentences

5

Use any FIVE of the eight given, illustrating their meaning.

Make for — to move or head towards a place.

► As soon as the rain began, the picnickers gathered their belongings and *made for* the nearest shelter.

Yeoman's service — excellent and valuable help given in a time of need.

► The volunteer doctors did *yeoman's service* during the flood relief operations.

Discretion is the better part of valour — it is often wiser to be cautious than to act rashly out of bravery.

► Seeing the enemy's superior numbers, the general withdrew his troops, believing that *discretion is the better part of valour*.

A casting vote — a deciding vote used to break a tie, usually cast by a chairperson.

► With the committee evenly split, the chairman had to use his *casting vote* to settle the matter.

Look down upon — to regard someone or something with a sense of superiority or contempt.

► It is unkind to *look down upon* people simply because they come from humble backgrounds.

Q.5 (b) — Word Pairs in Sentences

10

Use any FIVE of the eight given, illustrating their meaning.

Adverse — unfavourable or harmful. **Averse** — having a strong dislike or opposition to something.

► The company suffered from *adverse* weather conditions during harvest; he was *averse* to taking any unnecessary risks.

Maize — a cereal crop, corn. **Maze** — a confusing network of paths.

► The farmer planted *maize* across the entire field; the children got lost inside the garden *maze*.

Medal — an award given for achievement. **Meddle** — to interfere in matters that are not one's concern.

➤ She received a gold *medal* for her performance; he was warned not to *meddle* in his neighbour's affairs.

Imperious — arrogant and domineering. **Imperial** — relating to an empire.

➤ The manager's *imperious* tone offended the staff; the museum housed relics from the old *imperial* court.

Veracity — truthfulness or accuracy. **Voracity** — extreme eagerness or greed, especially for food.

➤ The journalist questioned the *veracity* of the official statement; the *voracity* of the young boy's appetite surprised everyone at dinner.

Q.6 (a) — Correct the Sentences

5

Correct only FIVE of the eight given.

ii. ~~The climate of Pakistan is better than England?~~

➤ **The climate of Pakistan is better than that of England.**

iv. ~~You ought to have regarded him your benefactor.~~

➤ **You ought to have regarded him as your benefactor.**

v. ~~My friend is very ill, I hope he will soon die.~~

➤ **My friend is very ill, I hope he will soon recover.**

vi. ~~He is waiting for better and promising opportunity.~~

➤ **He is waiting for a better and more promising opportunity.**

viii. ~~Many a sleepless nights she spent.~~

➤ **Many a sleepless night she spent.**

Q.6 (b) — Narration: Direct ↔ Indirect Speech

5

Do only FIVE of the eight given.

i. On Monday he said, "My son is coming today."

➤ On Monday he said that his son was coming that day.

ii. They wanted to know where he was going the following week.

➤ They said to him, "Where are you going next week?"

iii. He said, "Did she go yesterday?"

➤ He asked if she had gone the day before.

iv. "By God," he said, "I do not know her nickname."

➤ He swore by God that he did not know her nickname.

v. He says that we are to meet him at the station.

➤ He says, "Meet me at the station."