

CSS
2013

FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

English (Précis & Composition)

Competitive Examination for Recruitment to Posts in BS-17
Under the Federal Government — 2013

Part-I (MCQs): 30 Minutes — 20 Marks

Part-II: 2 Hours 30 Minutes — 80 Marks

Status: Fully Solved — Complete Model Answers

★ Fully Solved Reference Edition ★

All parts, all sub-questions and all original MCQ options
(including "None of these")
have been retained exactly as given — correct options
highlighted, nothing omitted.

Choose the word nearly most similar in meaning

(1 mark each)

(1) BRISTLE

- a. Regulate **b. Flare up ✓** c. Frail d. Exhilarate e. None of these

(2) DELUGE

- a. Immerse b. Rescue c. Drown **d. Overflow ✓** e. None of these

(3) TIRADE

- a. Argument b. Procession **c. Angry Speech ✓** d. Torture e. None of these

(4) QUASI

- a. Secret b. Improper **c. Seeming ✓** d. Whole e. None of these

(5) VILIFY

- a. To Prove b. Boast c. Defraud **d. Defame ✓** e. None of these

(6) RIGMAROLE

- a. Unnecessary b. Disorder **c. Confused talk ✓** d. Game e. None of these

(7) DEIGN

- a. Condescend ✓** b. Pretend c. Disparage d. Refuse e. None of these

(8) PROLETARIAT

- a. Trade agreement b. Government Secretariat **c. Labouring Class ✓** d. Wealthy Class e. None of these

(9) LUDICROUS

- a. Liberal b. Fearful **c. Comic ✓** d. Praise Worthy e. None of these

(10) MALEFIC

- a. Baleful ✓** b. Belonging to a male person c. Social d. Fighting by nature e. None of these

Choose the word nearly most opposite in meaning

(11) LANGUID

- a. Feeble b. Dull **c. Vigorous ✓** d. Weak e. None of these

(12) HIGH-STRUNG

- a. Nervous b. Tense c. Costly **d. Calm ✓** e. None of these

(13) METTLE

- a. Courage b. Boldness **c. Cowardice ✓** d. Spirit e. None of these

(14) ABRIDGEMENT

- a. Epitome b. Dissect c. Abstract d. Synopsis **e. None of these ✓**

(15) CAJOLE

- a. Flaunt b. Coax c. Beguile d. Flatter **e. None of these ✓**

(16) CELIBACY

- a. Virginity **b. Wedlock ✓** c. Chastity d. Single e. None of these

(17) INCLEMENT

- a. Rough b. Unpleasant c. Unfavourable **d. Genial ✓** e. None of these

(18) IRRESOLUTE

- a. Ineffective b. Without resolution c. Yielding **d. Sturdy ✓** e. None of these

(19) ANNEXATION

- a. Supplement b. Augmentation c. Appendix **d. Contraction ✓** e. None of these

(20) INCUR

- a. Shun ✓** b. Run c. Blame d. Meet e. None of these

Part II

80

Q.2 — Précis Writing

20 + 2

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

Culture, in human societies, has two main aspects; an external, formal aspect and an inner, ideological aspect... (a passage on culture, colonialism, and the fractured social structures inherited by newly independent nations).

SUGGESTED HEADING

Colonialism and the Fragmentation of Culture

MODEL PRÉCIS (≈110-120 WORDS)

Culture comprises an external, formal expression and an inner ideological core, both organically tied to a society's structure, so cultural problems cannot be studied apart from underlying political and economic ones. In underdeveloped countries, these problems arise mainly from prolonged imperialist domination and outdated feudal or tribal structures whose development froze at the point of subjugation. Feudal societies, despite real technical sophistication, confined their culture to a privileged elite, while tribal societies, though appealingly simple, lacked intellectual depth; both remained locked in constant tribal, racial and religious rivalry. Colonial rule deepened this fragmentation — both between different ethnic and national groups and between classes within them — leaving newly liberated nations this fractured social and cultural inheritance.

Q.3 — Comprehension Passage

20

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow. Use your own language.

The civilization of China — as everyone knows, is based upon the teaching of Confucius who flourished five hundred years before Christ... (Bertrand Russell's passage on Confucius's teachings, the stability of Chinese civilization, and the ideal of the gentleman).

(1) Why do you think the author calls Confucius' belief about the progress of human society a delusion?

(4)

Confucius believed that ancient rulers had been wiser and the people happier in the remote past than in his own "degenerate" present, implying that society was declining rather than advancing. The author regards this as a delusion because it romanticises an idealised past rather than reflecting any objective historical reality — human society was not, in fact, moving backward.

(2) How did Confucius' thought affect China to develop into a stable and 'proper' China?

(4)

Rather than urging constant striving after new achievements, Confucius aimed to create a stable society that maintained a consistent level of excellence. This unifying ethical framework gave the originally small, warring Chinese states the cohesion needed to expand over roughly three hundred years into a vast, stable empire exceeding any other of its time in territory and population.

(3) Why does the author think that the Confucian system deserves respect and admiration?

(4)

Because it survived for over two thousand years despite barbarian invasions, civil wars and periods of chaos, continually sustaining art, literature and a civilised way of life — such extraordinary durability, in the author's view, is itself proof of the system's genuine merit.

(4) Why does the author call the Confucian system a purely ethical system and not a religion?

(4)

Because it is not associated with the supernatural or with mystical beliefs, unlike religions in the conventional sense. It offers a set of practical, everyday ethical guidelines that ordinary people can realistically live by, in contrast to the more exalted, harder-to-practise ideals of a religion like Christianity.

(5) Briefly argue whether you agree or disagree with Confucius' ideal of a gentleman.

(4)

One may reasonably agree with much of this ideal: courtesy, restraint, and grace even in competition remain admirable and practical virtues that ease social friction and promote mutual respect. However, one might also argue that unwavering politeness can, in some situations, discourage legitimate confrontation of injustice — a balance between courtesy and principled assertiveness may serve modern society better than courtesy alone.

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 (iv).

TOPIC SELECTED

iv. "Beneath Every Cloud There is Always a Silver Lining"

This well-loved proverb reminds us that even the darkest, most difficult periods of life carry within them the seed of something positive, though it may not be visible at first. Just as a storm cloud is often edged with a bright rim of sunlight, adversity — however painful — frequently opens doors to growth, resilience, or opportunity that would not otherwise have appeared.

History and everyday life alike are full of illustrations of this truth. Economic recessions, though devastating in the short term, have often forced businesses and individuals to innovate, cut wasteful practices, and discover more efficient or creative ways of working. Personal setbacks — the loss of a job, the failure of a relationship, or a serious illness — frequently compel people to reassess their priorities, leading them toward paths more aligned with their true values and strengths. Even global crises, such as pandemics, while causing immense suffering, have accelerated advances in medicine, remote work, and international cooperation.

Psychologically, believing in the silver lining is not mere naive optimism; it is a coping mechanism that helps people maintain hope and motivation during hardship, rather than succumbing to despair. This attitude does not deny the reality or severity of suffering, but it insists that meaning and growth can still be found within it. Studies in resilience consistently show that people who can identify some positive aspect of a difficult experience recover more quickly and adapt better than those who see only loss.

At the same time, this proverb should not be used to dismiss or minimise genuine grief and hardship; there is a difference between acknowledging eventual growth and demanding premature positivity from someone still suffering. Understood with this caution, the proverb offers not empty comfort but a genuine call to patience and perspective — reminding us that clouds, however dark, do eventually pass, and often leave something valuable behind.

Q.5 (a) — Idioms in Sentences

4

Use only FOUR of the six given, illustrating their meaning.

The milk of human kindness — natural compassion and gentleness inherent in people.

► Even in the harshest circumstances, the nurse never lost the *milk of human kindness* that made her patients trust her.

A rule of thumb — a broad, practical guideline based on experience rather than exact calculation.

► As a *rule of thumb*, you should save at least ten percent of your monthly income.

Out and out — thoroughly, completely, in every respect.

► The scheme turned out to be an *out and out* fraud from the very beginning.

To wash one's dirty linen in public — to discuss private or embarrassing matters openly in front of others.

► The couple was advised by their families not to *wash their dirty linen in public* during the court proceedings.

Q.5 (b) — Word Pairs in Sentences

4

Use only FOUR of the six given, illustrating their meaning.

Adjoin — to be next to or connected with. **Adjourn** — to suspend a meeting or proceeding until a later time.

► The garden *adjoins* the old library building; the judge decided to *adjourn* the hearing until Monday.

Allay — to reduce or relieve a fear or concern. **Ally** — a person, group, or country united with another for a common purpose.

► The doctor's calm explanation helped *allay* her fears about the surgery; France was Britain's closest *ally* during the war.

Bases — plural of "base," or the plural of "basis." **Basis** — the foundation or starting point for something.

► The two theories share very different *bases* of evidence; mutual trust was the *basis* of their long partnership.

Click — a short, sharp sound, or to press a button. **Clique** — a small, exclusive group of people.

► The door shut with a soft *click*; she felt excluded by the tight *clique* of senior students.

Q.6 (a) — Correct the Sentences

5

Correct only FIVE of the eight given.

i. ~~My boss agreed with my plan.~~

► **My boss agreed to my plan.**

ii. ~~If he was here, he would be as wise as he was during the war.~~

► **If he were here, he would be as wise as he was during the war.**

iii. ~~We have amusements in form of music.~~

► **We have amusements in the form of music.**

v. ~~We were glad for being there.~~

► **We were glad to be there.**

vii. ~~After finishing my lecture, the bell rang.~~

► **After I finished my lecture, the bell rang.**

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

5

Do only FIVE of the eight given.

i. "If I had spoken to my father as you speak to me he'd have beaten me," he said to me.

► He told me that if he had spoken to his father as I spoke to him, his father would have beaten him.

ii. "How far is it?" I said, "and how long will it take me to get there?"

► I asked how far it was and how long it would take me to get there.

iii. "Do you know anybody in this area or could you get a reference from your landlady?" he asked me.

➤ He asked me if I knew anybody in that area or could get a reference from my landlady.

iv. She told me to look where I was going as the road was full of holes and very badly lit.

➤ She said to me, "Look where you are going. The road is full of holes and very badly lit."

v. He wanted to know if I was going to the concert and suggested that we should make up a party and go together.

➤ He said to me, "Are you going to the concert? Let's make up a party and go together."