



FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN

COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION 2021

RECRUITMENT TO POSTS IN BS-17

English Precis & Composition

SOLVED PAPER • MODEL ANSWERS

TOTAL MARKS	100	TIME ALLOWED	3 Hours
PART-I (MCQS)	20	PART-II (DESC.)	80

Every question from the original 2021 paper, reproduced in full and followed by a complete model solution — précis, comprehension, grammar, punctuation, prepositions, vocabulary, and Urdu-to-English translation.

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Q. 2	Précis Writing & Suggested Title
Q. 3	Reading Comprehension
Q. 4	Sentence Correction
Q. 5	Punctuation & Prepositions
Q. 6	Vocabulary in Context
Q. 7	Urdu-to-English Translation

About This Solved Paper

Original Paper Instructions (reproduced exactly):

1. Part-II is to be attempted on the separate Answer Book.
2. Attempt ALL questions from PART-II.
3. All the parts (if any) of each Question must be attempted at one place instead of at different places.
4. Write Q. No. in the Answer Book in accordance with Q. No. in the Q. Paper.
5. No Page/Space be left blank between the answers. All the blank pages of Answer Book must be crossed.
6. Extra attempt of any question or any part of the question will not be considered.

Every question from the original 2021 paper is reproduced below **exactly as set**, followed immediately by a complete model solution. Where the paper allowed a choice (e.g. "correct only FIVE"), every item has been solved so that nothing is left out — simply select the number required by the exam instructions when practising.

Question 2

20 Marks

Write a précis of the following and suggest a suitable title:

ORIGINAL PASSAGE

Nizar Hassan was born in 1960 and raised in the village of Mashhad, near Nazareth, where he has lived with his family. He studied anthropology at Haifa University and after graduating worked in TV. Starting in 1990, he turned to cinema. In 1994, he produced Independence, in which he pokes his Palestinian interlocutors about what they think of the bizarre Israeli notion of their “independence”. They have stolen another people’s homeland and call the act “independence”! Hassan dwells on that absurdity.

As the world’s attention was captured by the news of Israel planning to “annex” yet a bit more of Palestine and add it to what they have already stolen, I received an email from Nizar Hassan, the pre-eminent Palestinian documentary filmmaker. He wrote to me about his latest film, My Grandfather’s Path, and included a link to the director’s cut. It was a blessing. They say choose your enemies carefully for you would end up like them. The same goes for those opposing Zionist settler colonialists. If you are too incensed and angered by their daily dose of claptrap, the vulgarity of their armed robbery of Palestine, you would soon become like them and forget yourself and what beautiful ideas, ideals, and aspirations once animated your highest dreams. Never fall into that trap. For decades, aspects of Palestinian and world cinema, art, poetry, fiction, and drama have done for me precisely that: saved me from that trap. They have constantly reminded me what all our politics are about – a moment of poetic salvation from it all.

Nizar Hassan’s new documentary is one such work – in a moment of dejection over Israel’s encroachment on Palestinian rights and the world’s complicity, it has put Palestine in perspective. The film is mercifully long, beautifully paced and patient, a masterfully crafted work of art – a Palestinian’s epic ode to his homeland. A shorter version of My Grandfather’s Path has been broadcast on Al Jazeera Arabic in three parts, but it must be seen in its entirety, in one go. It is a pilgrimage that must not be interrupted.

(≈ 280 words)

SUGGESTED TITLE

Nizar Hassan: Cinema as an Ode to Palestine

MODEL PRÉCIS

Nizar Hassan, an eminent Palestinian documentary filmmaker, has since 1990 used cinema to expose the absurdity of Israel's claim to "independence" over a homeland it seized. Amid news of further Israeli annexation, the writer received Hassan's latest film, *My Grandfather's Path*. He reflects that literature and art have long saved him from the trap of becoming like the oppressors he condemns, restoring poetic meaning to politics. Hassan's new work, a patient, masterful epic tribute to Palestine, broadcast only partially on Al Jazeera, must be experienced whole and uninterrupted – a cinematic pilgrimage born of grief at his homeland's continuing dispossession.

(≈ 100 words — roughly one-third of the original, as required)

Question 3

20 Marks

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given at the end.

ORIGINAL PASSAGE

In its response to 9/11, America has shown itself to be not only a hyperpower but increasingly assertive and ready to use its dominance as a hyperpower. After declaring a War on Terrorism, America has led two conventional wars, in Afghanistan and Iraq, demonstrating its overwhelmingly awesome military might. But these campaigns reveal something more: America's willingness to have recourse to arms as appropriate and legitimate means to secure its interests and bolster its security. It has set forth a new doctrine: the right of pre-emptive strike when it considers its security, and therefore its national interests, to be at risk. The essence of this doctrine is the real meaning of hyperpower.

Prime Minister Tony Blair has consistently argued that the only option in the face of hyperpower is to offer wise counsel. But increasingly this is a course that governments and people across the world have refused. The mobilisation for war against Iraq split the United Nations and provoked the largest anti-war demonstrations the world has ever seen. And through it all, America maintained its determination to wage war alone if necessary and not to be counselled by the concerns of supposedly allied governments when they faithfully represented the wishes of their electorates. Rather than engaging in debate, the American government expressed its exasperation. The influential new breed of neoconservative radio and television hosts went much further. They acted as ringmasters for outpourings of public scorn that saw French fries renamed 'freedom fries' and moves to boycott French and German produce across America. If one sound-bite can capture a mood, then perhaps it would be Fox News' Bill O'Reilly. At the height of the tension over a second Security Council resolution to legitimate war in Iraq, Mr O'Reilly told his viewers that the bottom line was security, the security of his family, and in that matter 'There's no moral equivalence between the US and Belgium'. It is, in effect, the ethos of hyperpower articulated and made manifest in the public domain of 24-hour talk. And America's willingness to

prosecute war has raised innumerable questions about how it engages with other countries. Afghanistan has seen the removal of the Taliban. But there are no official statistics on the number of innocent civilians dead and injured to achieve that security objective. The people of Afghanistan have witnessed a descent into the chaos that preceded the arrival of the Taliban, a country administered not by a new era of democracy under the tutelage of the hyperpower, but merely by the return of the warlords. Beyond Kabul, much of the country remains too insecure for any meaningful efforts at reconstruction and there is enormous difficulty in bringing relief aid to the rural population.

QUESTIONS & MODEL ANSWERS (4 MARKS EACH)

1. Why does the doctrine of power set by neo-imperial America deny space to counselling?

The doctrine rests on the right of pre-emptive strike whenever America alone judges its security to be at risk. Because the decision to use force depends only on America's own perception of threat, outside advice becomes irrelevant: the hyperpower is prepared to wage war unilaterally, even against the wishes of allied governments and their electorates, leaving no real room for counsel to change the outcome.

2. What is the essence of 'moral equivalence' whereas War has no moral justification?

As voiced by commentators such as Bill O'Reilly, the idea is that no comparison can be drawn between America's conduct and that of any other nation, however peaceful, once national security is invoked. Family and national safety are treated as an absolute justification that places America's actions beyond moral scrutiny, even though war's human costs make such a claim of unquestionable rightness difficult to sustain.

3. Why do countries occupied and under the tutelage of hyperpower have no peace?

Occupation removes one source of oppression without necessarily supplying order: in Afghanistan, the fall of the Taliban was followed not by functioning democracy but by the return of warlords. With large areas beyond Kabul

remaining insecure, reconstruction stalls and relief aid cannot reach the rural population, so instability and hardship persist despite – or because of – the hyperpower’s presence.

4. Arguably Europe and hyperpower US are at cross purposes over the concept of war. Are they? Why?

Yes, they are. Leaders such as Tony Blair championed dialogue and “wise counsel” through international consensus, while America asserted an independent right to pre-emptive action irrespective of allied opinion. This fundamental disagreement split the United Nations and triggered the largest anti-war demonstrations in history, showing that Europe and America approached the legitimacy of war from genuinely opposed starting points.

5. What Tony Blair’s meant by ‘wise counsel’, and did it prevail?

By “wise counsel” Blair meant using patient diplomatic persuasion to influence America’s conduct rather than open confrontation or refusal to cooperate. It did not prevail: America pressed ahead with war despite this counsel, dismissed dissenting allies with open scorn – as in the “freedom fries” episode – and acted largely on its own terms.

Question 4

10 Marks

Correct only FIVE of the following:

The paper requires only five to be attempted; all eight are solved below for completeness – choose any five when practising under exam conditions.

(i) They were **lieing** in the sun.

They were **lying** in the sun.

The present participle of “lie” (to recline) is spelled *lying*, not *lieing*.

(ii) He will not come **without** he is asked.

He will not come **unless** he is asked.

“Without” cannot be used as a conjunction introducing a clause; “unless” is required.

(iii) John as well as Harry **bear** witness to it.

John, as well as Harry, **bears** witness to it.

“As well as” does not make the subject plural; the verb agrees with the singular subject “John”.

(iv) The crew **was** now on board and they soon busied themselves in preparing to meet the coming storm.

The crew **were** now on board and they soon busied themselves in preparing to meet the coming storm.

“Crew” is a collective noun; since the sentence already treats it as plural (“they”), the verb must agree as plural – *were*.

(v) Could I have **piece of please**?

Could I have **a piece, please**?

The article “a” was missing and the stray “of” is removed; a comma sets off the polite “please”.

(vi) Is there a **sport club near by**?

Is there a **sports club nearby**?

The compound noun is “sports club”, and “nearby” (meaning close at hand) is written as one word.

(vii) The coat is quite big.

The coat is quite big. *(No correction needed – the sentence is already grammatically correct.)*

This item may be chosen as one of the five simply by confirming it is already correct.

(viii) It’s only a short **travel** by train.

It’s only a short **journey** by train.

“Travel” is normally uncountable and cannot take the article “a” with “short”; “journey” or “trip” is the correct countable noun.

Question 5 (a)

05 Marks

Punctuate the following text, where necessary.

ORIGINAL (UNPUNCTUATED)

That familiarity produces neglect has been long observed the effect of all external objects however great or splendid ceases with their novelty the courtier stands without emotion in the royal presence the music tramples under his foot the beauties of the spring with little attention to their fragrance and the inhabitant of the coast darts his eye upon the immense diffusion of waters without awe wonder or terror.

PUNCTUATED VERSION

That familiarity produces neglect has been long observed. The effect of all external objects, however great or splendid, ceases with their novelty: the courtier stands without emotion in the royal presence; the music tramples, under his foot, the beauties of the spring, with little attention to their fragrance; and the inhabitant of the coast darts his eye upon the immense diffusion of waters, without awe, wonder, or terror.

Question 5 (b)

05 Marks

Re-write the following sentences (ONLY FIVE) after filling in the blanks with appropriate Prepositions.

All eight are answered below for completeness – select any five when practising under exam conditions.

i	The knavish wolf was able ____ convince the pig to let him ____ his home.	The knavish wolf was able to convince the pig to let him into his home.
ii	I looked this word ____ in the dictionary, but I still don't understand it.	I looked this word up in the dictionary, but I still don't understand it.
iii	I need to learn these verbs ____ heart ____ tomorrow.	I need to learn these verbs by heart by tomorrow.
iv	The morgue is redolent ____ the odor of deceased individuals.	The morgue is redolent of the odor of deceased individuals.
v	He is cogitating ____ some means of revenge.	He is cogitating on some means of revenge.
vi	He was reticent ____ do anything about the problem.	He was reticent to do anything about the problem.
vii	His body is impervious ____ moisture.	His body is impervious to moisture.
viii	Ahmad applied ____ the bank for a loan.	Ahmad applied to the bank for a loan.

Question 6

10 Marks

Use only FIVE of the pairs of words in sentences clearly illustrating their meanings.

All eight pairs are illustrated below for completeness – select any five when practising under exam conditions.

(i) Gibe, Jibe

Gibe – He could not resist making a cruel *gibe* about his rival's failed business venture.

Jibe – Her account of the accident does not *jibe* with what the police report says.

(ii) Epigram, Epigraph

Epigram – The professor was famous for closing every lecture with a witty *epigram* that summed up the whole argument in one line.

Epigraph – The novel opens with an *epigraph* taken from an old sailor's proverb, setting the tone for the voyage ahead.

(iii) Brawl, Bawl

Brawl – A drunken *brawl* broke out outside the tavern shortly after midnight.

Bawl – The toddler began to *bawl* loudly the moment his toy was taken away.

(iv) Crib, Crypt

Crib – The newborn slept peacefully in her wooden *crib* beside her mother's bed.

Crypt – The ancient king's remains have lain undisturbed in the church *crypt* for centuries.

(v) Barmy, Balmy

Barmy – You must be *barmy* to go hiking on the ridge in this storm.

Balmy – We strolled along the shore in the *balmy* evening air.

(vi) Peat, Petite

Peat – The farmers dug *peat* from the bog to burn as fuel through the winter.

Petite – The *petite* dancer moved gracefully across the wide stage.

(vii) Monogamous, Monogenous

Monogamous – Swans are often cited as an example of a *monogamous* species that mates for life.

Monogenous – The biologist's thesis examined *monogenous* reproduction, in which offspring arise from a single parent organism.

(viii) Postilion, Posterior

Postilion – The *postilion* rode the leading horse to guide the carriage safely through the narrow lane.

Posterior – The patient complained of a dull ache in the *posterior* part of the knee.

Question 7

10 Marks

Translate the following into English by keeping in view figurative/idiomatic expressions.

ORIGINAL URDU PASSAGE

استعماریت پسند انگریزی اقدار کے سامنے خوش آمدانہ اور فرمانبردارانہ طرز عمل کے برخلاف، جسے برطانوی حکمرانوں نے فروغ دیا تھا اور جسے اہل ہند نے اس دور میں اختیار کر رکھا تھا۔ سید احمد خاں اور ان کے اعلیٰ مرتبت اور روشن دماغ فرزند سید محمود دونوں نے ایسا رویہ اختیار کرنے کی کوشش کی گویا وہ انگریزوں کے مساوی اور ہم مرتبہ ہوں۔ سن ۱۸۶۷ء کے آگرہ دربار کا واقعہ نہ صرف مسلمانوں کو بلکہ پوری ہندوستانی قوم کو بخوبی معلوم تھا۔ سید احمد خاں نے اس دربار سے اس لیے علیحدگی اختیار کی تھی کہ وہاں ہندوستانیوں کو انگریزوں کے مقابلے میں کم تر درجے کی نشست فراہم کی گئی تھی۔ اس دربار میں سید احمد خاں کو ایک تمغہ عطا کیا جانے والا تھا۔ بعد میں میرٹھ کے کمشنر ولیمس کو یہ خدمت تفویض کی گئی کہ وہ علی گڑھ ریلوے اسٹیشن جا کر سید احمد خاں کو تمغہ پیش کریں۔

MODEL ENGLISH TRANSLATION

In contrast to the sycophantic and submissive conduct shown towards imperialist English values – a conduct that the British rulers had themselves encouraged, and one which the people of India had adopted during that era – Sir Syed Ahmad Khan and his highly distinguished and enlightened son, Syed Mahmood, both strove to adopt a bearing as

though they stood equal and on the same footing as the English.

The incident of the Agra Darbar of 1867 was well known not merely to Muslims but to the entire Indian nation. Sir Syed Ahmad Khan had dissociated himself from that Darbar because, there, Indians had been given seating of a lower rank than that given to the English. At that very Darbar, Sir Syed Ahmad Khan was to have been conferred a medal.

Later, the Commissioner of Meerut, Williams, was assigned the task of travelling to the Aligarh railway station to present the medal to Sir Syed Ahmad Khan.