

Federal Public Service Commission

COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION · 2022



English

PRÉCIS & COMPOSITION

A Complete, Fully Solved Edition of Part II

MODEL
ANSWERS
PART II

Time Allowed	Three Hours
Total Marks (Part-II)	80
Recruitment To	BS-17 (Federal Govt.)

PRÉCIS · COMPREHENSION · GRAMMAR · TRANSLATION

CSS 2022 — English (Precis & Composition)

The original paper, reproduced in full, with a complete model answer set beneath each question

Time Allowed: Three Hours · **Part-I (MCQs):** Maximum 30 Minutes, 20 Marks · **Part-II:** 80 Marks

Note:

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 Question 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.

HOW THIS EDITION IS ORGANISED

Every question is reproduced exactly as set in the original paper, inside a shaded panel.

Directly beneath it, marked with a green rule, is the complete model answer — précis with title, comprehension answers, grammar corrections, punctuation, prepositions, vocabulary usage, and the Urdu-to-English translation.

AS SET IN THE PAPER

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

The fear of human beings when faced with the mysteries of life and their weakness by comparison with the vastness of nature created in them a need to communicate with the divine, with the superior powers which they believed regulated the universe and determined their own fates. Knowledge of wishes of the gods was always a sure guide for human behavior. In ancient Greece, the precise nature of these wishes was 'decoded' by the art of giving oracles, practiced by soothsayers who had the gift of understanding the signs or signals sent by the gods.

The soothsayers uttered their oracles by interpreting flashes of lightening, rolls of thunder or the flights of certain birds of prey (omens); alternatively, they might observe the direction in which the fire burned when a sacrifice was made, examine the entrails of animals which had just been sacrificed, or base judgments on the sacrificial beast's willingness to approach the altar. The interpretation of dreams was popular too, and so was palmistry. The most notable soothsayers of ancient Greece were Tiresias, Calchas, Helenus, Amphiaraus and Cassandra.

However, there were abundant instances in which the gods did not manifest themselves to the faithful in the forms of signs but spoke directly to an intermediate who for a short time was overcome by a 'divine mania' and transcended his own human essence. Here the prophet- or more usually the prophetess- entered a state of ecstasy in which he or she delivered the message from the gods to the suppliants.

These practices for foreseeing the future were the basis on which the ancient Greek oracles operated. Each oracle was located within a properly-organized sanctuary and was directly associated with one or other of the gods. Apollo was the archetypal soothsayer for the Greeks, the god who was responsible for conveying to mortals the decisions pronounced by Zeus. The most important of all the oracles, that at the Delphi, delivered the messages with the intervention of Apollo, while the oldest that of Dodona, functioned with the assistance

of Zeus.

MODEL ANSWER

Suggested Title — "Divine Oracles and Soothsaying in Ancient Greece"

Précis (118 words): Overwhelmed by life's mysteries and nature's vastness, early humans sought contact with divine powers believed to govern the universe and human fate, treating the gods' will as an infallible guide to conduct. In ancient Greece, soothsayers decoded this will through oracles, reading omens in lightning, thunder, birds of prey, sacrificial fire, entrails, dreams and palmistry; Tiresias, Calchas, Helenus, Amphiaraus and Cassandra were most celebrated. At times the gods bypassed signs, speaking through an entranced intermediary — usually a prophetess — who transcended human limits in ecstatic frenzy to deliver their message. Every oracle, housed in a sanctuary dedicated to a god, functioned on these practices; Apollo transmitted Zeus's decisions, most famously at Delphi, while Dodona's oracle drew directly on Zeus.

PASSAGE

Civil society refers to all of the places where individuals gather together to have conversations, pursue common interests and, occasionally, try to influence public opinion or public policy. In many respects, civil society is where people spend their time when they are not at work or at home. For example, a group of people gather at a local park every Thursday afternoon for a game of football. Most of them arrive well before the game begins and stay for some time after it ends. Some of them go out for dinner or a drink after the game. In the course of their meetings they talk about a wide range of topics, including football but also extending to include issues such as work, family, relationships, community events, racial issues and politics. This kind of solidarity can be found in a variety of other places in civil society – such as sports clubs, bowling leagues, reading groups and social movements – where individuals get together to associate on the basis of some shared interest fostering more effective forms of citizenship. Even though people may come together on the basis of an interest they all share in common, they eventually have to develop productive strategies for dealing with conflicts and differences that emerge within the association. Team mates in a bowling league discover, on certain issues, significant differences of opinion. And yet, because they value the association and look forward to participating in its activities, they do not respond to these differences by exiting the scene. Instead, they search for the ways of interacting that will not threaten the solidarity of the group. In the process, they learn to appreciate and to tolerate social differences, a valuable skill to have in an increasingly multicultural nation. They also develop a general sense of social trust and mutual obligation, which makes society function more efficiently (this is what political scientists and sociologists are talking about when they refer to the importance of social capital). Gathering together in an association, people begin to think about their shared private interest as a collective public interest, and they try to make sure that this public interest is safe and secured. For example, the group that gets together for a weekly football game begins to talk about the park as an important community resource; if feel that the park is being mistreated or mismanaged, will organize a 'save the park' campaign to try to influence their local politicians and the other residents of the community. Recently, there has been growing concern that civil society is weaker than it used to be, because people are losing interest in joining associations. As citizens become

increasingly disconnected from voluntary associations, they will experience less trust and less social connection, and as a result political institutions will function less efficiently. However, some scholars opine that many people are simply choosing to participate in different kinds of associations with fewer face-to-face meetings but supplemented with 'virtual' interactions facilitated by resources.

MODEL ANSWERS (4 MARKS EACH)

1. How does the author characterize the concept of civil society?

The author describes civil society as the associational space outside work and home — sports clubs, bowling leagues, reading groups, social movements — where people gather over a shared interest, converse on wide-ranging topics, build solidarity, and sometimes act to influence public opinion or policy.

2. Why does civil society strive towards better socialization driven by tolerance?

Because members value their association and wish to keep participating in it, they do not abandon it when disagreements surface; instead they work out ways of coexisting despite differences, and this ongoing negotiation teaches them to appreciate and tolerate diversity — an essential skill in a multicultural nation.

3. What do you understand by the term 'Social Capital' used in this passage?

Social capital is the stock of mutual trust, social connectedness and sense of obligation that individuals build up through participating in voluntary associations — a resource that makes society and its institutions function more efficiently.

4. Why does a civil society assume the role of a public stake holder?

As people associate around a shared private interest — such as a park used weekly for football — that interest gradually turns into a collective public concern; members then organize, for example a 'save the park' campaign, to protect it, making civil society a stakeholder in public welfare.

5. What impact is feared by the weakening state of civil society?

A decline in associational participation is feared to erode social trust and connectedness, which would in turn make political institutions function less efficiently — though some scholars argue this is merely a shift toward newer, virtually-supplemented forms of association rather than genuine decline.

AS SET IN THE PAPER

Correct only FIVE of the following:

MODEL CORRECTIONS — ALL EIGHT SOLVED; CHOOSE ANY FIVE AS REQUIRED

(i) I must walk two miles to school every morning when I was a child.

I had to walk two miles to school every morning when I was a child.*"Must" has no past form; past obligation needs "had to" to match "when I was a child".*

(ii) After the storm, we had got to pick up some fallen branches.

After the storm, we had to pick up some fallen branches.*"Had got to" is non-standard; the correct past-obligation form is "had to".*

(iii) Guitar is most popular instrument among teen age boys, but not girls.

The guitar is the most popular instrument among teenage boys, but not girls.*Missing definite articles "the" before "guitar" and "the most popular".*

(iv) You are not well and I wish you feel better soon.

You are not well and I wish you felt better soon.*"Wish" for a present unreal state takes the past subjunctive: "felt", not "feel".*

(v) The grass not looking green now because it is not raining since last month.

The grass is not looking green now because it has not rained since last month.*Missing auxiliary "is"; an action continuing "since last month" needs present perfect "has not rained".*

(vi) The cold air made me shiver a little when I was waiting for him.

Correct as written — no error.*Tense, structure and word choice are all correct; this sentence needs no change.*

(vii) I offered my seat to an older woman who just smiled me.

I offered my seat to an older woman who just smiled at me.*"Smile" takes the preposition "at" before an object: "smiled at me".*

(viii) She packed her bags, carried downstairs and put the back seat of her car.

She packed her bags, carried them downstairs and put them on the back seat of her car.

The object "them" is missing after "carried" and "put"; "put" also needs the preposition "on" before "the back seat".

AS SET IN THE PAPER

Punctuate the following text, where necessary.

unfortunately we often miss a basic school lesson every big task consists of several small ones done precisely and perfectly as a nation we acutely need to learn the art of breaking down our moonlit goals into small accomplishable tasks it will reduce frustration anxiety depression in society and embarrassment for the government machinery too as they dont have to defend their unkept promises.

MODEL ANSWER — CORRECTLY PUNCTUATED

Unfortunately, we often miss a basic school lesson: every big task consists of several small ones, done precisely and perfectly. As a nation, we acutely need to learn the art of breaking down our moonlit goals into small, accomplishable tasks. It will reduce frustration, anxiety, and depression in society, and embarrassment for the government machinery too, as they don't have to defend their unkept promises.

AS SET IN THE PAPER

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

MODEL ANSWERS — ALL EIGHT SOLVED; CHOOSE ANY FIVE AS REQUIRED

1. Despite regular practice he never seems to win **at** tennis.
2. **With** luck, we should be in Islamabad by 5 p.m.
3. He went **of** his own accord: nobody forced him to go.
4. My husband brought me some flowers today. He must be **after** something!
5. My younger son tripped **over** the cat and fell downstairs.
6. You look really **under** the weather. Are you ill?
7. The car went **over** the brow of the hill and was soon out of sight.
8. He told that his career was **in** ruins because of the pandemic.

AS SET IN THE PAPER

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

MODEL SENTENCES — ALL EIGHT PAIRS SOLVED; CHOOSE ANY FIVE AS REQUIRED

Annalist (*a writer of historical records*) — The annalist meticulously chronicled the reign of each king in his manuscripts.

Analyst (*one who examines data*) — The financial analyst predicted a rise in stock prices next quarter.

Gest (*a notable deed or exploit*) — The medieval poem recounted the knight's heroic gests in battle.

Jest (*a joke*) — He made a jest about the weather to lighten the mood.

Sleigh (*a horse-drawn sledge*) — The children rode a sleigh through the snowy woods.

Slay (*to kill*) — In the legend, the hero must slay the dragon to save the kingdom.

Shoot (*to fire a weapon*) — The hunter took careful aim before he pulled the trigger to shoot.

Chute (*a sloping channel*) — The laundry chute carried the clothes straight down to the basement.

Coign (*a projecting corner, as in "coign of vantage"*) — From that coign of vantage atop the tower, the guard could see the entire valley.

Coin (*a piece of money*) — She found an old silver coin buried in the garden.

Key (*a device for opening locks*) — He lost the key to his front door yesterday.

Quay (*a wharf where ships dock*) — Fishermen unloaded their catch at the busy quay.

Wile (*a cunning trick*) — The fox used every wile to escape the hunter's trap.

While (*a period of time / conjunction*) — She read a book while waiting for the bus.

Leek (*a vegetable*) — The chef added chopped leek to the soup for extra flavour.

Leak (*an escape of liquid or gas*) — There was a leak in the roof after the storm.

AS SET IN THE PAPER

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

URDU PASSAGE

ہر دور اپنے ساتھ بہت سے ایسے معاملات لے
 کر آتا ہے جو کسی کی پسند کے نہیں ہوتے مگر
 انہیں قبول کرنا ہی پڑتا ہے - بعض اوقات
 ایسا بھی ہوتا ہے کہ قدرت شای دہمیں آزمانے
 کی خاطر ایسا ہمارے سامنے کچھ رکھتی ہے جو
 ہمارے مطلب کا نہیں ہوتا بلکہ اس سے ہمارا
 کوئی تعلق ہی نہیں ہوتا مگر پھر بھی اسے
 زندگی کا حصہ بناتے ہوئے چلنا پڑتا ہے - آج
 بھی ایسا ہی چل رہا ہے - ہر صدی اپنے ساتھ
 ایسی تبدیلیاں لاتی رہی ہے جو گزشتہ صدیوں
 کے مقابلے میں بالکل نئی تھیں - فطری علوم و
 فنون کی ترقی نے انسان کو ایسا بہت کچھ دیا
 ہے جس سے علمی و معاشی عمل کا کچھ را قرار دیا
 جا سکتا ہے - قدرت ہمیں پھل دیتی ہے تو ساتھ
 ہی ساتھ اس بات کا بھی پابند کرتی ہے کہ اس
 کے چھلکوں کو ڈھنگ سے ٹھکانے لگائیں - اگر
 ایسا نہ کیا جائے تو ماحول کی غلاظت بڑھتی

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Every age brings along with it many matters that suit no one's taste, and yet one has no option but to accept them. At times it so happens that nature, perhaps to put us to the test, places before us something that serves none of our purposes — indeed, something to which we bear no relation at all — yet we must still make it a part of life and carry on. The same holds true even today. Every century has ushered in changes of a kind wholly unprecedented in comparison with the centuries that went before. The advancement of the natural sciences and arts has bestowed upon man a great deal that may well be called the waste product of intellectual and economic activity. Just as nature gives us fruit, it equally binds us to dispose of its peel properly — for if this is not done, the filth of the environment only increases.