

FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



ENGLISH

PRÉCIS & COMPOSITION

Competitive Examination — 2023

For Recruitment to Posts in BS-17 Under the Federal
Government

★ COMPLETE & FULLY SOLVED PAPER ★

Every Question Answered · Model Précis ·
Comprehension · Grammar · Vocabulary · Translation

PART II
80
Marks

TIME
3
Hours

EDITION
Solved &
Annotated

English (Précis & Composition)

Part II — Fully Solved

2

Write a précis of the following passage and suggest a suitable title.

20 Marks

ORIGINAL PASSAGE

On the question of freedom in education there are at present three main schools of thought, deriving partly from differences as to ends and partly from differences in psychological theory.

There are those who say that children should be completely free, however bad they may be; there are those who say they should be completely subject to authority, however good they may be; and there are those who say they should be free, but in spite of freedom they should be always good. This last party is larger than it has any logical right to be; children, like adults, will not all be virtuous if they are all free. The belief that liberty will ensure moral perfection is a relic of Rousseauism, and would not survive a study of animals and babies. Those who hold this belief think that education should have no positive purpose, but should merely offer an environment suitable for spontaneous development. I cannot agree with this school, which seems to me too individualistic, and unduly indifferent to the importance of knowledge. We live in communities which require co-operation, and it would be utopian to expect all the necessary co-operation to result from spontaneous impulse. The existence of a large population on a limited area is only possible owing to science and technique; education must, therefore, hand on the necessary minimum of these. The educators who allow most freedom are

men whose success depends upon a degree of benevolence, self-control, and trained intelligence which can hardly be generated where every impulse is left unchecked; their merits, therefore, are not likely to be perpetuated if their methods are undiluted. Education, viewed from a social standpoint, must be something more positive than a mere opportunity for growth. It must, of course, provide this, but it must also provide a mental and moral equipment which children cannot acquire entirely for themselves.

SUGGESTED TITLE

Freedom and Discipline in Education

✓ MODEL PRÉCIS (≈110 WORDS)

Views on freedom in education fall into three schools: complete freedom regardless of behaviour, complete subjection to authority, and freedom expected to yield goodness. The author rejects the Rousseauistic belief that liberty alone guarantees virtue, calling it too individualistic and dismissive of knowledge, since organised society depends on co-operation, science and technique that children cannot acquire spontaneously. Successful educators who grant freedom do so through benevolence, self-control and trained intelligence — qualities that cannot flourish where every impulse goes unchecked, and are therefore unlikely to be passed on. Education, then, must be more than an opportunity for growth; it must

also supply the mental and moral equipment children cannot gain unaided.

3

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

20 Marks

ORIGINAL PASSAGE

The majority of people have always lived simply, and most of humanity still struggles on a daily basis to eke out a meager existence under dire circumstances. Only in affluent industrialized countries do people have the luxury of more goods and services than they need to survive. On the basis of material wealth, North Americans and Europeans should be the happiest people on earth, but according to the 2012 Happy Planet Index (HPI), they are not. Surprisingly, what had begun as an experimental lifestyle evolved into a quiet revolution that spread the word through books such as Duane Elgin's best-selling *Voluntary Simplicity: Toward a Way of Life that is Outwardly Simple, Inwardly Rich* (1981), as well as numerous magazines, alternative communities of the like-minded, and, later, Internet websites. Combined with a growing awareness of the environmental consequences of consumerism, the voluntary simplicity movement sought to reduce the consumption of goods and energy and to minimize one's personal impact on the environment. "Voluntary" denotes a free and conscious choice to make appropriate changes that will enrich life in a deeper, spiritual sense. "Simplicity" refers to the lack of clutter, that is, eliminating all those things, patterns, habits, and ideas that take control of our lives and distract us from our inner selves. However, this is not to be confused with poverty, which is involuntary, degrading, and debilitating. Neither does it mean that people must live on a farm or reject progress or technology,

or do without what is necessary for their comfort and welfare. To practice voluntary simplicity, one must differentiate between what one wants (psychological desires) and what one needs (basic requirements of life), and seek a healthy balance that is compatible with both. In a consumer society where advertising bombards us with the message that without this, that, and the other product, we are unsuccessful, undesirable, and unimportant, being clear on what you really need and resisting what you don't can be an ongoing struggle. The beauty of voluntary simplicity is that it is a philosophy, and not a dogma. How one goes about it depends on individual character, cultural background, and climate. For this, three Rs (i.e., Reduce, Recycle & Reuse) represent the best way to get a handle on rampant consumerism. In economies driven by the quest for ever more, living with less is erroneously equated with poverty and social inferiority. By conserving energy, for instance, you are actually ensuring that more resources are available for future use. By making a frugal budget and sticking to it, you can eliminate unnecessary expenses. Recycling paper, metal, plastic, and glass and reusing building materials and old clothing keep materials in the loop and out of landfills. Pooling skills and resources through barter networks not only saves money, but sharing with others establishes bonds and fosters a sense of community. With the glut of cheap goods that are usually designed for obsolescence, quality products that last are becoming progressively harder to find. In the long run, a more expensive but durable and repairable item or even an older used item that is still in good condition is a better investment than a brand new piece of junk that will only break down and end up in the trash. Thus, at the heart of voluntary simplicity is the conscious realization that less is really more. Less consumption means more resources for future generations. Less activity that brings little satisfaction or reward is more time for yourself and your

loved ones. Less stuff is more space to move around in. Less stress means more relaxation and better health. Less worry provides more enjoyment and more fulfillment in life.

QUESTION 3

Answers to the Comprehension Questions

4 marks each

1. How important is happiness to most people, and what is the relationship between material wealth and happiness?

Happiness is a goal almost everyone pursues, yet the passage shows that it does not track material wealth in any simple way. Although North Americans and Europeans enjoy far more goods and services than they need, the 2012 Happy Planet Index found that they are not the happiest people on earth. This indicates that beyond meeting basic needs, greater affluence and consumption do not automatically translate into greater well-being or life satisfaction.

2. How does the author characterize 'Voluntary Simplicity' as a movement and as a philosophy?

As a movement, Voluntary Simplicity began as an experimental lifestyle and grew into a quiet revolution, spread by influential books, magazines, like-minded communities, and later the Internet, gathering strength alongside rising environmental awareness. As a philosophy, it is deliberately not a rigid dogma: it is a free, conscious choice to reduce clutter and consumption in order to enrich life spiritually, with

each person applying it according to their own character, culture, and circumstances.

3. What impact is feared by the growing consumerism of modern society?

Rampant consumerism is feared to exhaust resources needed by future generations, to fill landfills with cheap, quickly-obsolete goods, to damage the environment through excessive production and waste, and to leave individuals feeling perpetually unsuccessful, undesirable, and unimportant under the constant pressure of advertising.

4. What influences make it difficult for people to reduce their consumption patterns?

Persistent advertising bombards people with the message that they are lacking without particular products, making it a struggle to stay clear on genuine needs versus manufactured wants. In addition, in economies built around ever-increasing consumption, living with less is wrongly equated with poverty and social inferiority, which discourages people from voluntarily reducing what they own or use.

5. What are the challenges and rewards of voluntary simplicity?

The central challenge is distinguishing true needs from psychological wants amid a culture of advertising and social stigma attached to owning less. The rewards,

however, are substantial: more resources conserved for future generations, more free time and space, reduced stress, better health, financial savings from frugal budgeting, and stronger community bonds built through skill- and resource-sharing.

4**Correct only FIVE of the following.****10 Marks**

All eight are solved below for completeness; the examination requires any FIVE to be attempted.

q (i) His knowledge of languages and international relations aid him in his work.

Corrected His knowledge of languages and international relations **aids** him in his work.

Rule: the true subject is the singular noun "knowledge"; the verb must agree with it, not with "languages and international relations".

q (ii) The ambassador, with his family and staff, invite you to a reception at the embassy on Tuesday afternoon.

Corrected The ambassador, with his family and staff, **invites** you to a reception at the embassy on Tuesday afternoon.

Rule: a phrase introduced by "with" does not form part of the grammatical subject, so the verb agrees with the singular "ambassador".

q (iii) This year, he will sit in the CSS examination.

Corrected This year, he will sit **for** the CSS examination.

Rule: the correct idiom for taking an examination is "to sit for", not "to sit in".

❑ (iv) The Chief Executive will let us know whether or not he can attend the meeting.

Corrected The Chief Executive will let us know whether he can attend the meeting **or not**.

Rule: this is a matter of preferred style – "whether ... or not" reads more naturally with "or not" placed at the end of the clause.

❑ (v) When he came back from vacation, Aslam and me plan to look for another apartment.

Corrected When he came back from vacation, Aslam and **I planned** to look for another apartment.

Rule: "I", not "me", is used as part of a compound subject; the verb tense must also match the past tense of the "when" clause.

❑ (vi) If some of you make a noise, they shall be punished.

Corrected If some of you make a noise, **you** shall be punished.

Rule: the pronoun referring back to "some of you" must remain "you" for agreement; "they" wrongly shifts the person.

❑ (vii) He came to me to enquire what is the salary attached to the appointment.

Corrected He came to me to enquire what **the salary attached to the appointment was**.

Rule: in reported/indirect questions, normal statement word order is used (subject before verb), not the inverted order of a direct question.

❑ (viii) I am too tired that I do not hunt words and idioms in my English book.

Corrected I am too tired **to hunt for** words and idioms in my English book.

Rule: "too + adjective" is followed by a "to-infinitive", not by a "that" clause.

5a

Punctuate the following text, where necessary.

05 Marks

ORIGINAL (UNPUNCTUATED) TEXT

while taking a nap on the porch one hot summer day hodga dreamed that a stranger promised to give him ten pieces of gold the stranger placed them in hodgas hand one by one until he reached the tenth piece which he hesitated to give him come on what are you waiting for said hodga you promised me ten just then he woke up he immediately looked at his hand and saw that it was empty he quickly shut his eyes again stretched out his hand and said all right i ll settle for nine.

✓ PUNCTUATED VERSION

While taking a nap on the porch one hot summer day, Hodja dreamed that a stranger promised to give him ten pieces of gold. The stranger placed them in Hodja's hand one by one until he reached the tenth piece, which he hesitated to give him. "Come on, what are you waiting for?" said Hodja. "You promised me ten." Just then, he woke up. He immediately looked at his hand and saw that it was empty. He quickly shut his eyes again, stretched out his hand, and said, "All right, I'll settle for nine."

5b**Fill in the blanks with appropriate prepositions (ONLY FIVE).****05 Marks**

All eight are solved below for completeness; the examination requires any FIVE to be attempted.

i	The neighbours came <u>to</u> my house to see what's going on in the house.
ii	She sat <u>in</u> the shade of the tree.
iii	The moon does not shine <u>by</u> its own light.
iv	The burglar jumped <u>over</u> the compound wall.
v	She entered <u>into</u> an agreement with them.
vi	I have been working hard <u>at</u> arithmetic.
vii	He got <u>off</u> his bicycle.
viii	It cannot be done <u>without</u> offence.

6

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

10 Marks

All eight pairs are solved below for completeness; the examination requires any FIVE pairs to be attempted.

Antic (a playful or ridiculous act) vs **Antique** (a valuable old object)

The clown's **antics** made all the children laugh with delight.

She inherited a beautiful **antique** vase from her grandmother.

Draught (a current of air / a drink) vs **Drought** (a prolonged lack of rain)

Please shut the window; there is a cold **draught** coming in.

The prolonged **drought** destroyed the entire wheat crop this year.

Quaint (attractively old-fashioned) vs **Queer** (strange or odd)

We stayed in a **quaint** little cottage overlooking the sea.

There was something **queer** about his behaviour that night.

Momentary (lasting only a moment) vs **Momentous** (of great importance)

He felt a **momentary** flash of doubt before signing the contract.

The signing of the peace treaty was a **momentous** occasion in history.

Compliment (an expression of praise) vs **Complement** (something that completes)

She paid him a sincere **compliment** on his excellent presentation.

The rich sauce perfectly **complements** the flavour of the grilled steak.

Eminent (famous, distinguished) vs **Imminent** (about to happen)

He is an **eminent** scholar of political science, respected worldwide.

The dark, heavy clouds signalled that a storm was **imminent**.

Faint (weak, indistinct, or to lose consciousness) vs **Feint** (a deceptive move)

She heard a **faint** cry for help coming from the distance.

The boxer used a clever **feint** to trick his opponent before striking.

Immigrant (one who comes to settle in a country) vs
Emigrant (one who leaves their own country)

Many **immigrants** have contributed greatly to the nation's economy.

The **emigrant** left his homeland in search of better opportunities abroad.

7

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

10 Marks

ORIGINAL URDU TEXT

بزرگ نے بتایا کہ جنگل کے پار ایک پہاڑ ہے جہاں وہ پھول
اگتا ہے جس کی خوشبو سے آنکھوں کی کھوئی ہوئی روشنی لوٹ
آتی ہے، مگر پہاڑ بہت بلند ہے اور اس پر بے شمار چٹانیں
ہیں، کانٹے دار جھاڑیاں ہیں اور بڑے بڑے پتھر ہیں جو راستہ
روک لیتے ہیں۔ اس پہاڑ پر جانے کے لیے کئی لوگ آئے
اور چلے گئے مگر ایسا کوئی شخص نہیں آیا جو پھول تک پہنچا
ہو۔ شاید اسی لیے دنیا میں دکھ اور تکلیف ہے اور انسان
روشنی کی تلاش میں ہے۔

✓ ENGLISH TRANSLATION

The elder told me that beyond the forest lies a
mountain, where grows a flower whose fragrance
restores the lost light of one's eyes. But the mountain
is very high, and upon it lie countless rocks, thorny

bushes, and huge boulders that block the way. Many have come to climb this mountain and gone away again, but no one has ever managed to reach the flower. Perhaps this is why grief and suffering exist in the world, and mankind remains forever in search of light.

— End of Solved Paper —

FPSC CSS 2023 · English (Précis & Composition) · Model Solutions Prepared for Study
Purposes
