



FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Competitive Examination 2024

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

ENGLISH

(Precis & Composition)

★ COMPLETE SOLVED PAPER ★

✓ All 20 MCQs
Solved

✓ Precis & Title

✓
Comprehension
Answers

✓ Grammar
Corrections

✓ Punctuation
Fixed

✓ Prepositions
Filled

✓ Word Pairs
Illustrated

✓ Urdu → English
Translation

PART-I (MCQs) : 20 Marks | PART-II : 80 Marks | TOTAL: 100 Marks

Prepared as a Complete Solved Reference Copy

PART-I : MCQs (Compulsory) — Section (a)

Choose the word nearly SIMILAR in meaning to the capitalized word — Solved ($20 \times 1 = 20$ marks)

1. UBIQUITOUS:

(A) Scarce

(B) Present everywhere ✓

(C) Unique

(D) Limited

Explanation: Ubiquitous means present or found everywhere.

2. PERNICIOUS:

(A) Beneficial

(B) Harmful ✓

(C) Lucid

(D) Fervent

Explanation: Pernicious means having a harmful effect, especially gradually or subtly.

3. MELLIFLUOUS:

(A) Grating

(B) Smooth and sweet-sounding ✓

(C) Dissonant

(D) Discordant

Explanation: Mellifluous describes a sound that is sweet and smooth to hear.

4. EPHEMERAL:

(A) Enduring

(B) Eternal

(C) Short-lived ✓

(D) Persistent

Explanation: Ephemeral means lasting for a very short time.

5. ASTUTE:

(A) Indifferent

(B) Pensive

(C) Stupid

(D) Insightful ✓

Explanation: Astute means having sharp judgement; shrewd and perceptive.

6. ENTHRALL:

(A) Bore

(B) Captivate ✓

(C) Fascinate

(D) Disinterest

Explanation: Enthrall means to captivate/hold spellbound. (Option C 'Fascinate' is a close synonym too, but 'Captivate' is the most direct match.)

7. SYCOPHANT:

(A) Admirer

(B) Advocate

(C) Critic

(D) Flatterer ✓

Explanation: A sycophant is a person who acts obsequiously toward someone to gain advantage; a flatterer.

8. ASSUAGE:

(A) Aggravate

(B) Intensify

(C) Soothe ✓

(D) Alleviate

Explanation: Assuage means to make an unpleasant feeling less intense; to soothe. (Option D 'Alleviate' is also close, but 'Soothe' is the closest core sense.)

9. RETICENT:

(A) Talkative (B) Loquacious (C) Vocal

(D) Reserved ✓

Explanation: Reticent means not revealing one's thoughts readily; reserved.

10. INCESSANT:

(A) Sporadic (B) Intermittent

(C) Persistent ✓

(D) Halted

Explanation: Incessant means continuing without pause; persistent.

PART-I : MCQs (Compulsory) — Section (b)

Choose the word nearly OPPOSITE in meaning to the capitalized word — Solved

11. ESOTERIC:

(A) Obvious (B) Understood by few

(C) Extraneous

(D) Common ✓

Explanation: Esoteric means intended for/understood by only a small group. Opposite = Common (widely known/understood). (Option A is also plausible; 'Common' best captures the direct antonym.)

12. SQUALID:

(A) Dirty (B) Wretched (C) Lavish

(D) Clean ✓

Explanation: Squalid means extremely dirty/unpleasant. Opposite = Clean.

13. TACITURN:

(A) Loquacious ✓

(B) Voluble

(C) Reticent

(D) Silent

Explanation: Taciturn means reserved/saying little. Opposite = Loquacious (talkative). (Option B 'Voluble' is a close synonym of Loquacious; 'Loquacious' is the standard textbook antonym.)

14. CONSTRICT:

(A) Tighten

(B) Contract

(C) Expand ✓

(D) Release

Explanation: Constrict means to make narrower/tighter. Opposite = Expand.

15. LOQUACIOUS:

(A) Talkative

(B) Silent ✓

(C) Reticent

(D) Reserved

Explanation: Loquacious means very talkative. Opposite = Silent.

16. INDOLENT:

(A) Lazy (B) Active (C) Lethargic

(D) Energetic ✓

Explanation: Indolent means lazy/averse to activity. Opposite = Energetic. (Option B 'Active' is also close.)

17. COALESCE:

(A) Merge (B) Combine (C) Disperse

(D) Separate ✓

Explanation: Coalesce means to come together and merge. Opposite = Separate. (Option C 'Disperse' is also close.)

18. RANCOR:

(A) Animosity (B) Bitterness (C) Hostility

(D) Amicability ✓

Explanation: Rancor means deep bitterness/resentment. Opposite = Amicability (friendliness).

19. ACQUIESCE:

(A) Comply

(B) Resist ✓

(C) Agree

(D) Deny

Explanation: Acquiesce means to accept/comply without protest. Opposite = Resist.

20. DEBILITATE:

(A) Fortify ✓

(B) Weaken

(C) Strengthen

(D) Enervate

Explanation: Debilitate means to weaken. Opposite = Fortify (to strengthen). (Option C 'Strengthen' is also correct in meaning.)

Quick Answer Key — Part I

Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans
1	B	2	B	3	B	4	C
5	D	6	B	7	D	8	C
9	D	10	C	11	D	12	D
13	A	14	C	15	B	16	D

17	D	18	D	19	B	20	A
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Q.2 — Précis Writing (20 Marks)

Write a précis of the given passage and suggest a suitable title

Original passage: "In the heart of bustling cities, urban green spaces stand as oases of tranquility..." (approx. 230 words) — see original question paper for full text.



Suggested Title

Urban Green Spaces: A Shared Responsibility



Précis (approx. 75 words — one-third of the original)

Urban green spaces, though limited within cities, provide immense recreational, social, environmental, and psychological value. Parks foster community bonds through shared cultural and recreational activities, while sheltering wildlife, improving air quality, and easing urban heat. They also nurture mental well-being by offering refuge from city life.

However, rapid urbanization threatens their survival, making sustainable planning through parks, tree-lined avenues, and green rooftops essential. Preserving such spaces remains a collective responsibility for a healthier, more liveable urban future.

Note: A précis must always be written in your own words, in a single paragraph, in reported/indirect style where needed, and should be roughly one-third the length of the original passage, without omitting the central idea.

Q.3 — Comprehension (20 Marks)

Read the passage on innovation, technology & ethics, and answer the following (4 marks each)

1. What is the main theme of the passage, and how does it emphasize the evolving relationship between humanity and technology?

The central theme is the deepening, symbiotic relationship between humanity and rapidly advancing technology. The passage portrays the digital era as one where technology no longer merely assists human life but is woven into every facet of it — from communication to commerce. This evolving relationship is emphasized through the idea that progress must be pursued not blindly, but with awareness of its social and ethical consequences, showing that humanity and technology now shape each other's future together.

2. According to the passage, how does education adapt to the digital landscape, and what challenges and opportunities does this transformation present?

Education adapts by moving beyond the traditional four-walled classroom into open, boundless digital

spaces through e-learning platforms and virtual classrooms. This creates opportunities such as wider access to knowledge, collaborative learning, and the democratization of information that empowers learners globally. The main challenge is ensuring this transformation remains equitable and inclusive, so that the benefits of digital learning reach everyone rather than deepening existing inequalities.

3. Discuss the concept of the digital divide as presented in the passage. Why is inclusivity crucial in the context of technological advancements, and what role do educators play in addressing this divide?

The digital divide refers to the gap between those who have access to technology and those who do not. Inclusivity is crucial because unequal access risks leaving whole communities behind as the world grows more digitally dependent. Educators play a vital role by extending their responsibility beyond teaching content to actively promoting equitable access, ethical digital conduct, and awareness, thereby helping to close this divide.

4. Explore the role of ethics in the digital realm, especially concerning artificial intelligence. How does

the passage highlight the intersection between technology and ethical considerations?

The passage stresses that as artificial intelligence increasingly makes decisions affecting society, questions of ethics and transparency become critical. The blurring line between human and machine decision-making means technological progress cannot be separated from moral responsibility. The intersection of technology and ethics is highlighted as a defining feature of the digital age, where innovation must be guided by conscious, responsible use rather than unchecked advancement.

5. What is the message regarding the responsibility of individuals and society as a whole in navigating the intersection of humanity and technology? How can progress align with principles of equity, inclusivity, and ethical awareness?

The passage's message is that navigating the digital age is a collective responsibility shared by individuals, educators, and society at large. Progress should not be pursued for its own sake but guided by wisdom, fairness, and ethical mindfulness. By consciously embedding equity, inclusivity, and ethical awareness into technological development, society can ensure

that innovation benefits everyone and strengthens, rather than undermines, the human-technology relationship.

Q.4 — Sentence Correction (10 Marks)

Correct only FIVE of the following (all EIGHT solved below for completeness)

(i) Chewing slowly, the pepperoni pizza tasted delicious.

Corrected: Chewing slowly, I found the pepperoni pizza delicious.

Reason: Dangling modifier — the pizza cannot chew; the modifier must attach to the person doing the action.

(ii) Kicking and screaming, the exasperated father dragged his toddler out of the grocery store.

Corrected: The exasperated father dragged his kicking and screaming toddler out of the grocery store.

Reason: Misplaced modifier — it is the toddler, not the father, who is kicking and screaming.

(iii) A young girl in the corner, holding a red balloon.

Corrected: A young girl stood in the corner, holding a red balloon.

Reason: Sentence fragment — it lacks a main verb; 'stood' completes it as a full sentence.

(iv) Whom do you like more?

Corrected: Whom do you like more? (Correct as written)

Reason: 'Whom' is correctly used here as the object of the verb 'like'; no correction needed.

(v) He ordered a meal from the restaurant that was high in protein.

Corrected: He ordered a meal that was high in protein from the restaurant.

Reason: Misplaced modifier — 'that was high in protein' should sit next to 'meal', not 'restaurant'.

(vi) My favorite pizza topping is mushrooms they are really tasty I also like pizza with olives.

Corrected: My favorite pizza topping is mushrooms; they are really tasty. I also like pizza with olives.

Reason: Run-on sentence — needs proper punctuation (semicolon/period) to separate independent clauses.

(vii) The group asked to hear the report that Shirley and me prepared.

Corrected: The group asked to hear the report that Shirley and I prepared.

Reason: Pronoun case error — 'I' (subject form) is required, not 'me' (object form).

(viii) I managed finishing the painting.

Corrected: I managed to finish the painting.

Reason: Verb pattern error — 'manage' is followed by a to-infinitive, not a gerund.

Q.5 (a) — Punctuation Correction (05 Marks)

Rewrite any FIVE with corrected punctuation, without splitting or changing any word (all EIGHT solved below)

(i) The cordless vacuum one of the least interesting of the household appliances got its start as a moon drill.

Corrected: The cordless vacuum, one of the least interesting of the household appliances, got its start as a moon drill.

Reason: Commas needed to set off the non-essential appositive phrase.

(ii) Dr. Seuss books are famous for their delightful rhymes and nonsense words If I Ran a Zoo, however, likely gave us the real word nerd.

Corrected: Dr. Seuss books are famous for their delightful rhymes and nonsense words. "If I Ran a Zoo," however, likely gave us the real word "nerd."

Reason: A period/quotation marks are needed to separate the general statement from the sentence about the specific book title and the coined word.

(iii) There are many theories about Edgar Allan Poe's mysterious death, including rabies, alcoholism, and a truly strange possibility he may have been a victim of a voter fraud scheme.

Corrected: There are many theories about Edgar Allan Poe's mysterious death, including rabies, alcoholism, and a truly strange possibility: he may have been a victim of a voter fraud scheme.

Reason: A colon is needed to introduce the explanation of the 'truly strange possibility'.

(iv) The film critic said, "One of the most misquoted lines in movie history is Play it again, Sam."

Corrected: The film critic said, "One of the most misquoted lines in movie history is 'Play it again, Sam.'"

Reason: Single quotation marks are needed around the quoted film line, nested inside the double quotation marks.

(v) Poorly named animals include: the flying fox, which is really a bat the electric eel, which is really a knifefish and the honey badger, which is the only member of its genus and species!

Corrected: Poorly named animals include: the flying fox, which is really a bat; the electric eel, which is really a knifefish; and the honey badger, which is the only member of its genus and species!

Reason: Semicolons are needed to separate list items that themselves contain commas.

(vi) The Haskell Opera House sits right on the US Canadian border with the stage in Quebec and many of the seats in Vermont.

Corrected: The Haskell Opera House sits right on the US-Canadian border, with the stage in Quebec and many of the seats in Vermont.

Reason: A hyphen joins 'US-Canadian' as a compound modifier, and a comma introduces the descriptive phrase.

(vii) Most carnivorous plants attract and digest insects and other invertebrates but some large pitcher plants have been known to digest frogs, rodents, and other vertebrates.

Corrected: Most carnivorous plants attract and digest insects and other invertebrates, but some large pitcher plants have been known to digest frogs, rodents, and other vertebrates.

Reason: A comma is needed before 'but' joining two independent clauses.

(viii) Harvey is a good driver moreover he is a very friendly one.

Corrected: Harvey is a good driver; moreover, he is a very friendly one.

Reason: A semicolon before and comma after the conjunctive adverb 'moreover' correctly joins the two related clauses.

Q.5 (b) — Prepositions (05 Marks)

Fill in the blanks with appropriate prepositions (any FIVE required; all EIGHT solved below)

(i) His research is characterized ____ a deep understanding of genetic mutations. **BY**

His research is characterized **by** a deep understanding of genetic mutations.

(ii) The solution is contingent ____ various factors.

ON / UPON

The solution is contingent **on** various factors.

(iii) The experiment is predicated ____ the assumption of uniform conditions. **ON / UPON**

The experiment is predicated **on** the assumption of uniform conditions.

(iv) The project is commensurate ____ the skills of the research team. **WITH**

The project is commensurate **with** the skills of the research team.

(v) The methodology is impervious ____ external influences. **TO**

The methodology is impervious **to** external influences.

(vi) The discussion oscillated ____ two main points.

BETWEEN

The discussion oscillated **between** two main points.

(vii) His proposal hinges ____ securing adequate funding.

ON / UPON

His proposal hinges **on** securing adequate funding.

(viii) The model is contingent ____ accurate data inputs.

ON / UPON

The model is contingent **on** accurate data inputs.

Q.6 — Word Pairs in Sentences (10 Marks)

Use only FIVE pairs (all EIGHT solved below) to illustrate their meanings

(i) **Creak, Creek**

Creak (a harsh, high-pitched grating sound): The old wooden staircase gave a loud creak with every step.

Creek (a small, narrow stream of water): The children waded through the shallow creek behind the house.

(ii) **Palate, Palette**

Palate (the sense of taste; roof of the mouth): The chef's dessert delighted even the most refined palate.

Palette (a board for mixing paint, or a range of colours): The artist mixed blue and yellow on her palette.

(iii) **Elicit, Illicit**

Elicit (to draw out a response or information): The teacher's question was designed to elicit deeper thinking.

Illicit (illegal or forbidden): Police raided the warehouse used for illicit trade.

(iv) **Peal, Peel**

Peal (a loud ringing sound, especially of bells or laughter): A peal of church bells echoed across the valley.

Peel (the skin of a fruit; to remove skin): She began to peel the orange before eating it.

(v) **Taut, Taught**

Taut (stretched tight; showing tension): He kept the rope taut so the tent would not collapse.

Taught (past tense of 'teach'): Our grandfather taught us how to fish when we were young.

(vi) **Faint, Feint**

Faint (weak, dizzy, or barely perceptible): She felt faint after standing in the heat for hours.

Feint (a deceptive or misleading move): The boxer used a feint to trick his opponent before striking.

(vii) **Rheum, Room**

Rheum (a watery discharge from the eyes or nose): Rheum had gathered in the corner of the sick child's eyes.

Room (a space within a building): They converted the spare room into a small study.

(viii) **Wreak, Reek**

Wreak (to cause or inflict (damage, havoc)): The storm continued to wreak havoc along the coastline.

Reek (a strong, unpleasant smell): The alley had begun to reek of rotting garbage.

Q.7 — Translation (Urdu → English) (10 Marks)

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

Original Urdu Passage

جب فلسطین کا خود ساختہ تنازعہ تصفیہ کیلئے اقوام متحدہ کے روبرو پیش ہوا تو اس نمائندہ عالمی ادارے نے فلسطینی عوام کے حق خود ارادیت کو تسلیم کرتے ہوئے ان مسائل کے حل کا فارمولا بھی خود طے کیا۔ تنازعہ فلسطین کا دوریاستی حل تجویز کیا گیا مگر اس کیلئے منظور ہونیوالی اقوام متحدہ کی قراردادوں پر گزشتہ سات دہائیوں میں عملدرآمد کی نوبت ہی نہیں آنے دی گئی۔ اسکے برعکس امریکہ کی ایماء پر اسرائیلی فوجیں آج کے دن تک نہتے اور بے گناہ معصوم فلسطینیوں کے خون سے ہولی کھیل رہی ہیں اور غزہ کا علاقہ گزشتہ

اڑھائی ماہ سے جاری جنگ میں مکمل طور پر برباد ہو چکا ہے۔
اس جنگ میں امریکی کمک کے ساتھ اسرائیلی فوجوں نے 20
ہزار سے زائد فلسطینیوں بشمول خواتین اور بچوں کو بے
دردی سے شہید کیا ہے اور زندہ بچ جانے والے انسانوں
کیلئے کوئی ٹھکانہ محفوظ نہیں رہنے دیا جو اب خوراک اور
ادویات کی کمیابی کے باعث بھی زندگی سے ہاتھ دھو رہے
ہیں۔



English Translation

When Palestine's self-created dispute was brought before the United Nations for resolution, this apex global body, while recognizing the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, itself devised a formula to settle the issue. A two-state solution to the Palestinian dispute was proposed, but the resolutions passed by the United Nations to this effect were never allowed to be implemented over the past seven decades. On the contrary, at the behest of the United States, Israeli forces continue to

this day to shed the blood of unarmed and innocent Palestinians without mercy, and the Gaza Strip has been utterly devastated in the war that has raged for the past two and a half months. In this war, with American backing, Israeli forces have ruthlessly martyred more than twenty thousand Palestinians, including women and children, and have left no safe haven for those who survived — who are now also losing their lives owing to the scarcity of food and medicine.

Note on approach: Idiomatic expressions such as "خون سے ہولی" (literally "playing Holi with blood") have been rendered into natural English equivalents ("shedding blood without mercy") rather than translated literally, to preserve figurative meaning as instructed by the question.