



FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Competitive Examination 2026 • Recruitment to Posts in BS-17

ENGLISH (PRECIS & COMPOSITION)

COMPLETE SOLVED PAPER

- Part-I MCQs fully solved with correct options highlighted
- Part-II Precis, Comprehension, Grammar & Translation — all answered
- Urdu passage rendered with English translation
- Large, easy-to-read 24pt type throughout

TIME ALLOWED: THREE HOURS

Part-I (MCQs): 20 Marks | Part-II: 80 Marks | Total: 100 Marks
Solved edition prepared for study & self-assessment purposes

PART - I : MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS (SOLVED)

Q.1 • 20 x 1 = 20 Marks • Correct option highlighted in green

♦ **Paper Header & General Instructions (VERBATIM FROM ORIGINAL PAPER)**

FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION —
COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION-2026 FOR
RECRUITMENT TO POSTS IN BS-17 UNDER
THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT — ENGLISH
(PRECIS & COMPOSITION)

TIME ALLOWED: THREE HOURS | PART-I
(MCQs): MAXIMUM 30 MINUTES | (PART-I
MCQs) MAXIMUM MARKS: 20 | (PART-II)
MAXIMUM MARKS: 80

NOTE: (i) First attempt PART-I (MCQs) on
separate OMR Answer Sheet which shall be
taken back after 30 minutes.

(ii) Overwriting/cutting of the options/answers
will not be given credit.

(iii) There is no negative marking. All MCQs must
be attempted.

Q.1. (i) Select the best option/answer and fill in
the appropriate Box ☐ on the OMR Answer
Sheet. (20x1=20)

(ii) Answers given anywhere else, other than
OMR Answer Sheet, will not be considered.

**(a) Choose the word that is
nearly most similar in meaning to**

the capitalized words.

1. ENIGMA

(A) Stature

(B) Axiom

(C) Adage

✓ (D) Conundrum

An enigma is something puzzling or mysterious; a conundrum is exactly that — a confusing puzzle.

2. HACKNEYED

(A) Unplanned

(B) Intriguing

(C) Stubborn

✓ (D) Clichéd

Hackneyed means overused and unoriginal — i.e. clichéd.

3. PANACEA

✓ (A) Elixir

(B) Destitution

(C) Deprivation

(D) Predicament

A panacea is a supposed cure-all/remedy for every problem; an elixir carries the same 'magic solution' sense.

4. CAJOLE

✓ (A) Lure

(B) Intimidate

(C) Harass

(D) Tease

To cajole is to coax or persuade someone gently/with flattery — closest to 'lure' (entice).

5. INSCRUTABLE

(A) Unattainable

✓ (B) Mysterious

(C) Obstinate

(D) Vigilant

Inscrutable means impossible to interpret or understand — i.e. mysterious.

6. REVERIE

(A) Palimpsest

(B) Phantom

✓ (C) Daydream

(D) Curio

A reverie is a pleasant state of being lost in one's thoughts — a daydream.

7. SUMPTUOUS

(A) Delirious

(B) Gorgeous

(C) Perilous

✓ (D) Luxurious

Sumptuous describes something splendid and expensive-looking — luxurious.

8. APPALL

(A) Delirious

(B) Covered

✓ (C) Dismay

(D) Confuse

To appall is to greatly horrify or dismay someone.

9. ABJECT

(A) Indigent

(B) Desire

✓ (C) Despondent

(D) Extreme

Abject describes a wretched, hopeless, degraded state of mind or condition — closest to despondent.

10 BESPOKE

•

✓ (A) Tailored

(B) Quiet

(C) Gentle

(D) Handsome

Bespoke means custom-made for a particular person — i.e. tailored.

(b) Choose the word that is nearly most opposite in meaning to the capitalized words.

11 CANDOUR

•

(A) Rebuttal

✓ **(B) Evasiveness**

(C) Restraint

(D) Candidness

Candour means frankness/openness; its opposite is evasiveness (being indirect or vague).

12 COLLOQUIAL

•

(A) Vernacular

(B) Informal

✓ **(C) Literary**

(D) Quarrelsome

Colloquial means informal, everyday language; its opposite is literary (formal, written style).

13 EUPHORIA

•

(A) Ecstasy

(B) Obnoxious

(C) Nostalgic

✓ (D) Melancholy

Euphoria is intense happiness; its opposite is melancholy (deep sadness).

14 SURROGATE

•

(A) Proxy

(B) Soothing

(C) Forbidden

✓ (D) Real

A surrogate is a substitute for the genuine thing; its opposite is real (genuine/authentic).

15 OBLIVIOUS

•

(A) Ignorant

✓ (B) Conscious

(C) Sober

(D) Flamboyant

Oblivious means unaware; its opposite is conscious (aware).

16 AMELIORATE

•

- ✓ (A) Impair (B) Rectify
(C) Precipitate (D) Renew

Ameliorate means to make better; its opposite is impair (to make worse/weaken).

17 BENIGN

•

- (A) Amiable (B) Effective
(C) Boost ✓ (D) Malicious

Benign means gentle/harmless; its opposite is malicious (intending harm).

18 CACOPHONY

•

- (A) Noise (B) Disaster
✓ (C) Stillness (D) Rattle

Cacophony is a harsh mixture of discordant sounds; its opposite is stillness (silence).

19 DOLEFUL

•

(A) Witty

(B) Rich

(C) Empty

✓ (D) Vivacious

Doleful means sorrowful/mournful; its opposite is vivacious (full of life and high spirits).

20 ELAN

•

(A) Inelegance

(B) Stupidity

(C) Obscure

✓ (D) Despair

Elan is vigorous enthusiasm and spirited style; its opposite is despair (loss of hope/spirit).

PART - II : SOLVED ANSWERS

Maximum Marks: 80

♦ Part-II General Instructions (VERBATIM FROM ORIGINAL PAPER)

NOTE: (i) Part-II is to be attempted on the separate Answer Book.

(ii) Attempt ALL questions from PART-II.

(iii) All the parts (if any) of each Question must be attempted at one place instead of at different places.

(iv) Write Q. No. in the Answer Book in accordance with Q. No. in the Q.Paper.

(v) No Page/Space be left blank between the answers. All the blank pages of Answer Book must be crossed.

(vi) Extra attempt of any question or any part of the question will not be considered.

Q.2

20 MARKS

Instruction: Write a précis (100 words) of the following passage and

suggest a suitable title.

Original Passage

One of the outstanding features of the century has been the improvement of living of working man, greater political power, more wealth and leisure, and better facilities for health, security and education. In early civilizations, most communities were sharply divided into two classes, those who labored and those who did not. The small number of rulers - kings, priests, military leaders - lived in great comfort, and did very little work. The vast majority of the population enjoyed very few comforts, did lot of work, and had scarcely any political power. In some societies, there was an even more wretched class, the slaves, who had no rights at

all. The Industrial Revolution of Europe led to the production of vast quantities of goods, and workers began to be dissatisfied with their poverty. The factory owners needed skilled workers, and gradually they realized that they must show goodwill to their workforce, in order to stay in business. As in many other reforms, some enlightened slowly spread that workers were entitled to some consideration. Since men were free to work for any master they chose, good master soon had the pick of the workers and old-fashioned employers found themselves with a factory full of lower-grade workforce. Such a situation soon led to an all-round improvement in standards, and good employers tried to raise working conditions still higher. These

improvements were speeded up by the increased organization of workers in Trade Union movements, particularly in low-standard factories, where the owner often had to deal with strike action by dissatisfied workers. Now that the working classes are getting better and better working conditions, the need to strike has lessened considerably; and employers and workers alike have come to realise that they depend on each other for their livelihood.

✓ **SOLVED - Suggested Title**

“The Rise in the Working Class’s Living Standards” (alt: “Evolution of Labour Relations”)

✓ **SOLVED - Précis (100 words)**

This century has markedly improved the working man's life, bringing

greater political power, wealth, leisure and access to health, security and education. Earlier societies were sharply split between a comfortable ruling few and a toiling, powerless majority, sometimes including rightless slaves. The Industrial Revolution multiplied production and stirred workers' discontent with poverty. Needing skilled labour, factory owners gradually improved conditions to retain good workers, while old-fashioned employers were left with inferior staff. Trade Unions hastened these reforms through strikes in poorly-run factories. Consequently, working conditions steadily improved, strikes declined, and employers and workers recognised their mutual dependence for survival.

(Word count: 99 words)

Q.3

20 MARKS

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

Original Passage

She was one of those pretty, charming women who are born, as if by an error of Fate, into a petty official's family. She had no dowry, no hopes, nor the slightest chance of being loved and married by a rich man—so she slipped into marriage with a minor civil servant. Unable to afford jewels, she dressed simply: But she was wretched, for women have neither caste nor breeding—in them beauty, grace, and charm replace pride of birth. Innate refinement, instinctive elegance, and wit give them their

place on the only scale that counts and these make humble girls the peers of the grandest ladies. She suffered, feeling that every luxury should rightly have been hers. The poverty of her rooms—the shabby walls, the worn furniture, the ugly upholstery caused her pain. All these things that another woman of her class would not even have noticed, made her angry. The very sight of the little Breton girl who cleaned for her awoke rueful thoughts and the wildest dreams in her mind. She dreamt of rooms with Oriental hangings, lighted by tall, bronze torches, and with two huge footmen in knee breeches made drowsy by the heat from the stove, asleep in the wide armchairs. She dreamt of great drawing rooms upholstered in old silks, with fragile

little tables holding priceless knickknacks, and of enchanting little sitting rooms designed for tea-time chats with famous, sought-after men whose attentions all women longed for. She sat down to dinner at her round table with its three-day-old cloth, and watched her husband lift the lid of the soup tureen and delightedly exclaim: "Ah, a good homemade beef stew! There's nothing better!" She visualized elegant dinners with gleaming silver and gorgeous china. She yearned for wall hangings peopled with knights and ladies and exotic birds in a fairy forest. She dreamt of eating the pink flesh of trout or the wings of grouse. She had no proper wardrobe, no jewels, nothing. And those were the only things that she loved—she felt

she was made for them. She would have so loved to charm, to be envied, to be admired and sought after.

✓ SOLVED ANSWERS

1. Which word best describes the actual living conditions of the couple and why?

The word “modest” best describes their real living conditions. Although the narration dwells on her feeling of wretchedness, the concrete details — a worn but furnished home, a maid who cleans for her, a proper dinner table, and homemade beef stew — show an ordinary, lower-middle-class household, not actual poverty. Her sense of misery is emotional and self-created, not a reflection of real deprivation.

2. Which line best demonstrates the couple's true economic standing and why?

The line “She sat down to dinner at her round table with its three-day-old cloth, and watched her husband lift the lid of the soup tureen and delightedly exclaim: 'Ah, a good homemade beef stew! There's nothing better!'" best reveals their real standing. A modest home-cooked meal and a husband who is genuinely content with it show a simple, respectable, lower-middle-class life — far removed from the extravagant banquets she imagines.

3. According to the passage, what can be stated about the marriage of this woman?

Her marriage was one of necessity rather than love. With no dowry and no prospect of marrying a wealthy man, she “slipped into” marriage with a minor civil servant simply because it was the option available to her. It was a socially convenient match, not one born of romantic fulfilment, and this mismatch between her aspirations and her circumstances is the source of her constant discontent.

4. What can be inferred about the values of both husband and wife?

The husband values simplicity, gratitude and contentment; he is genuinely pleased with a humble home-cooked meal and asks for nothing more. The wife, in contrast, values wealth, status, and outward glamour; she is materialistic and vain, measuring her worth by possessions and the admiration of others rather than by what she actually has, making her perpetually dissatisfied.

5. What is the main idea of the passage?

The passage portrays a woman consumed by longing for a life of luxury and social admiration that is entirely beyond her modest means. Through the contrast between her humble reality and her extravagant daydreams, it explores themes of vanity, materialism, and the unhappiness that springs from being unable to accept one's own circumstances.

Q.4 - Re-write any FIVE sentences after correcting them.

10 MARKS

All eight sentences are solved below for complete practice; the exam requires any five.

1. It is a fact that I almost drowned makes me very careful about water safety whenever I go swimming.

✓ Corrected: The fact that I almost drowned makes me very careful about water safety whenever I go swimming.

2. The amount they receive in wages is greater than twenty years ago.

✓ Corrected: The amount they receive in wages is greater than it was twenty years ago.

3. Playing a game regularly is better than to read books always.

✓ Corrected: Playing a game regularly is better than always reading books.

4. It is one of the best speeches that ever been made in the General Assembly.

✓ Corrected: It is one of the best speeches that has ever been made in the General Assembly.

5. Ever since they had heard about the burglaries in neighbourhood they kept on the light all the time and close all the doors and the windows very carefully.

✓ Corrected: Ever since they had heard about the burglaries in the neighbourhood, they had kept the light on all the time and closed all the doors and windows very carefully.

6. When Susan realised that all of her bottles of the mail polish dries out she decides to keep them for decoration.

✓ Corrected: When Susan realised that all her bottles of nail polish had dried out, she decided to keep them for decoration.

7. It was late in night and a boy rode his bike along the path when suddenly he stopped in shock as his head lamp was not working anymore.

✓ Corrected: It was late at night and a boy was riding his bike along the path when he suddenly stopped in shock as his headlamp was no longer working.

8. The girl told the conductor that she lost her train ticket and knew not how she would get home.

✓ Corrected: The girl told the conductor that she had lost her train ticket and did not know how she would get home.

Q.5 (a) - Punctuate the following paragraph.

05 MARKS

Original (unpunctuated)

Scientists and philosophers of science tend to speak as if “scientific language” were intrinsically precise as if those who use it must understand one another's meaning even if they disagree but in fact scientific language is not as different from ordinary language as is commonly believed it too is subject to imprecision and ambiguity and hence to imperfect understanding moreover new theories or arguments are rarely if ever constructed by way of clear-cut steps of induction deduction and verification or falsification neither are they defended rejected or accepted in so straightforward a manner in

practice scientists combine the rules of scientific methodology with a generous admixture of intuition aesthetics and philosophical commitment the importance of what are sometimes called extra-rational or extra-logical components of thought in the discovery of a new principle or law is generally acknowledged

✓ **SOLVED - Punctuated Version**

Scientists and philosophers of science tend to speak as if “scientific language” were intrinsically precise, as if those who use it must understand one another's meaning even if they disagree. But, in fact, scientific language is not as different from ordinary language as is commonly believed; it, too, is subject to imprecision and ambiguity, and hence

to imperfect understanding. Moreover, new theories or arguments are rarely, if ever, constructed by way of clear-cut steps of induction, deduction, and verification or falsification; neither are they defended, rejected, or accepted in so straightforward a manner. In practice, scientists combine the rules of scientific methodology with a generous admixture of intuition, aesthetics, and philosophical commitment. The importance of what are sometimes called extra-rational or extra-logical components of thought in the discovery of a new principle or law is generally acknowledged.

Q.5 (b) - Re-write the following sentences (ONLY FIVE) after filling in the blanks with appropriate Prepositions.

05 MARKS

All eight items solved below; the exam requires only five.

(i) Nobody is certain _____ the future but some are convinced _____ the past.

✓ Nobody is certain about/of the future but some are convinced of the past.

(ii) He was familiar _____ the author but not knowledgeable in depth _____ him.

✓ He was familiar with the author but not knowledgeable in depth about him.

(iii) After weighing _____ all the options we decided to plump _____ the first design.

✓ After weighing up all the options we decided to plump for the first design.

(iv) The accused declared that he had no credible motive _____ revenge and denied _____ the charges.

✓ The accused declared that he had no credible motive for revenge and denied all knowledge of the charges.

(v) The party's withdrawal _____ the elections was widely seen as an obstacle _____ the success of the peace plan.

✓ The party's withdrawal from the elections was widely seen as an obstacle to the success of the peace plan.

(vi) *They agreed to cooperate _____ police _____ these matters.*

✓ They agreed to cooperate with police on/in these matters.

(vii) *I don't advise _____ anyone, I just listen _____ their complaints.*

✓ I don't advise anyone (no preposition needed here), I just listen to their complaints.

(viii) *The landscape _____ the Pampas is in places similar _____ the Dutch landscape.*

✓ The landscape of the Pampas is in places similar to the Dutch landscape.

Q.6 – Use only FIVE pairs of words in sentences clearly illustrating their meanings.

10 MARKS

All eight pairs solved below; the exam requires only five.

(i) Dependant, Dependent

- As the sole dependant of the late soldier, she received a monthly pension.
- Success in the exam is entirely dependent on consistent hard work.

(ii) Funeral, Funereal

- Hundreds of mourners attended the old chief's funeral at the village square.
- He spoke in a slow, funereal tone that unsettled everyone in the room.

(iii) Fain, Feign

- The tired old knight would fain have rested by the fire that night.
- He tried to feign illness so that he could avoid going to school.

(iv) Gamble, Gambol

- Investing all his savings in a single stock was a reckless gamble.
- The lambs love to gambol playfully across the spring meadow every morning.

(v) Hoard, Horde

- During the famine, the miser continued to hoard grain in a hidden cellar.
- A noisy horde of tourists descended upon the quiet mountain village.

(vi) Ingenious, Ingenuous

- The young engineer devised an ingenious solution to the city's water shortage.
- Her ingenuous, trusting manner made it easy for swindlers to deceive her.

(vii) Luxuriant, Luxurious

- The abandoned garden was overgrown with luxuriant vines and thick green foliage.
- They spent their honeymoon in a luxurious hotel overlooking the sea.

(viii) Moat, Mote

- The medieval castle was ringed by a deep, water-filled moat.
- A tiny mote of dust drifted lazily through the beam of sunlight.

Q.7 - Translate the following into English, keeping in view figurative / idiomatic expressions.

10 MARKS

Original Urdu Passage

یہ امر واقع ہے کہ مسلم دنیا قدرت کے ودیعت کردہ وسائل سے بھی مالا مال ہے اور الحادی قوتوں کے مقابل اپنے دفاع کا ہر تقاضا نبھانے کی بھی مکمل صلاحیت رکھتی ہے۔ اگر مسلم دنیا کے تمام ممالک اجتماعی طور پر ایک دوسرے کے مفاد و دفاع کیلئے اپنی صلاحیتیں اور وسائل بروئے کار لائیں تو دنیا کی کوئی طاقت انکے آگے ٹھہر نہیں سکتی۔ اتحاد و یکجہتی کے ساتھ مسلم دنیا اقوام عالم میں ایک بڑی طاقت کے طور پر ابھر سکتی ہے۔ اسلام دشمن الحادی قوتوں کو یقیناً اس حقیقت کا مکمل ادراک ہے اس لئے وہ مسلم دنیا کا اتحاد توڑنے اور اسے انتشار کا شکار کرنے کی سازشوں میں ہمہ وقت مصروف رہتی ہیں۔ مختلف فروعی اختلافات کے باعث مسلم ممالک خود بھی باہم الجھے اور ایک دوسرے سے برسرِ پیکار رہتے ہیں۔

✓ SOLVED - English Translation

It is a fact that the Muslim world is richly endowed with the resources bestowed upon it by Nature, and it is also fully capable of meeting every requirement of its own defence against the forces of atheism ranged against it. If all the countries of the

Muslim world were to collectively put their capabilities and resources to use for one another's mutual interest and defence, no power on earth could stand in their way. With unity and solidarity, the Muslim world could rise to become a great power among the nations of the world. The atheistic forces hostile to Islam are certainly fully aware of this reality, and it is for this very reason that they remain constantly engaged in conspiracies to break the unity of the Muslim world and plunge it into disorder. Owing to various minor differences, the Muslim countries themselves, too, remain at odds with one another and continue to be locked in conflict amongst themselves.

— End of Solved Paper —

Prepared as a study aid for CSS/PMS aspirants. Cross-check MCQ vocabulary answers with a standard dictionary during revision.