

**Précis 23: CSS 2000**

**Q.2: Write a précis of the following passage and suggest a suitable title: (20)**

(Besant describing the middle class of the 19th century wrote "In the first place it was for more a class apart. In no sense did it belong to society. Men in professions of any kind (except in the Army and Navy) could only belong to society by right of birth and family connections; men in trade—bankers were still accounted tradesmen—could not possibly belong to society. That is to say, if they went to live in the country, they were not called upon by the county families and in the town, they were not admitted by the men into their clubs or by ladies into their houses... The middle class knew its own place, respected itself, made its own society for itself, and cheerfully accorded to rank the deference due.")

(Since then, however, the life of the middle classes had undergone great changes as their numbers had swelled and their influence had increased. Their already well-developed consciousness of their own importance had deepened. More critical than they had been in the past of certain aspects of aristocratic life, they were also more concerned with the plight of the poor and the importance of their own

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values of society, thrift, hand work, piety and respectability as examples of ideal behavior for the guidance of the lower orders) Above all they were respectable. There were divergences of opinion as to what exactly was respectable and what was not. There were, nevertheless, certain conventions, which were universally recognized: wild and drunker behaviors were certainly not respectable, nor were godlessness or avert promiscuity, not an ill-ordered home life, unconventional manners, self-indulgence or flamboyant clothes and personal adornments.)

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## THE EMERGENCE AND GROWTH OF MIDDLE CLASS

In the past, people did not consider middle class as part of the society. They recognized them by family background and not by profession. They did not like to mingle with them. So the middle class created a society of their own where they respected each other and lived happily. Gradually, they became more populous and more influential. Moreover, they became more critical for the rich and more concerned for the poor. They respected their societal values even more. They were honourable in terms of their commitment to cultural norms and reluctance for non-traditional behavior.

2: **Write a précis of the following passage and suggest a suitable title:** (20)

Climate influences labour not only by enervating the labourer or by invigorating him, but also by the effect it produces on the regularity of his habits. Thus, we find that no people living in a very northern latitude has have ever possessed that steady and unflinching industry for which the inhabitants of temperate regions are remarkable. In the more northern countries, the severity of the weather, and at some seasons, the

efficiency of light, render it impossible for the people to continue their usual out of door employment. The result is that the working classes, being compelled to cease from their ordinary pursuits, are rendered prone to desultory habits, the chain of their industry is, as it were, broken and they lose that impetus which long continued and uninterrupted practices never fails to give. Hence there arises a national character more fitful and capricious than that possessed by a people whose climate permits the regular exercise of their ordinary industry. Indeed, so powerful is this principle that we perceive its operations even under the most opposite circumstances. It would be difficult to conceive a greater difference in government, laws, religions, and manners, than that which distinguishes Sweden and Norway. On the one hand, from Spain and Portugal on the other. But these four countries have one great point in common. In all of them, continued agricultural industry is impracticable. In the two southern countries, labour is interrupted by the dryness of the weather and by the consequent state of the soil. In the northern countries, the same effect is produced by the severity of the winter and the shortages of the days. The consequences are that these four nations, though so different in other respects, are all remarkable for a certain instability and fickleness of character.

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## CLIMATE'S INFLUENCE ON LABOURERS

Climate affects the labourer and his habits. That is why, people in different regions work differently. In extreme weather regions, outdoor work becomes impossible. The industry does not function efficiently and people do not find motivation to work. The behavior persists in the whole nation, influencing its government, laws, religion and manners. The ~~cont~~ uninterrupted agriculture is not possible in such nations. ~~Sometimes~~ <sup>In some areas</sup>, the dry weather and dry soil affects the working of labourers. In other areas, extreme cold and short days hinder the process. As a result, the countries remain in the state of instability.