

PRÉCIS EXERCISES

PRÉCIS EXERCISE 1

Q: Make a précis of the following passage in about one third of its length and suggest a suitable title. (20)

Lying is indeed an accursed vice. We are men, and we have relations with one another only by speech. If we recognized the horror and gravity of an untruth, we should more justifiably, punish it with any other crime. I commonly find people taking the most ill-advised pains to correct their children for their harmless faults and worrying them about heedless acts which leave no trace and have no consequences. Lying and in a lesser degree obstinacy are, in my opinion, the only faults whose birth and progress we should consistently oppose. They grow with a child's growth and once the knack of lying it is difficult

accursed
↳ harmful

accursed
↳ harmful

skills

to imagine how impossible it is to correct it; Whence it happens that we find some otherwise excellent men subject to this fault and enslaved by it.

If, like the truth, falsehood had only one face, we should know better where we are, for we should then like the opposite of what a liar said to be the truth. But the opposite of a truth has a thousand shapes and a limitless field.

The Pythagoreans regard good as certain and finite, and evil as boundless as uncertain. There are a thousand ways of missing the bull's eye, only one of hitting it. I am by no means sure that I could induce myself to tell a brazen and deliberate lie even to protect myself from the most obvious and extreme danger. An ancient father says that we are better off in the company of a dog we know than in that of a man whose language we do not understand. Therefore, those of different nations do not regard one another as men, and how much less friendly is false speech than silence. (Montaigne)

(CSS 1998)

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Lying : a heinous habit and crime

lying is a disgusting habit and if people know the malicious outcomes of an untruth, they will consider it a crime.

Most parents worry about their children's negative habits which have no long-term consequences. However, they neglect their lying and obstinacy which have long-term impacts on their children's growth and productivity. These habits grow with the growth of children and when they become skills for children, it will become impossible for parents to correct it. The most dangerous thing about lying is that it has multiple faces. Thus, disagreement among nations is a false speech than silence.

Total words 295

Precis 98

CSS-2001

Poetry is the language of imagination and the passions. It relates to whatever gives immediate pleasure or pain to human mind. It comes home to the bosoms and business of men: for nothing but what comes home to them in the most general and intelligible shape can be a subject of poetry. Poetry is the universal language which the heart holds with nature and itself. He who has a contempt for poetry cannot have much respect for himself or for anything else. Whatever there is a sense of beauty, or power, or harmony, as in the motion of the waves of the sea, in the growth of a flower, there is a poetry in its birth. If history is a grave study, poetry may be said to be graver, its materials lie deeper, and are spread wider. History treats, for the most part, cumbersome and unwieldy masses of things, the empty cases in which the affairs of the world are packed, under the heads of intrigue or war, in different states, and from century to century but there is no thought or feeling that can have entered into the mind of man which he would be eager to communicate to others, or they would listen to with delight, that is not a fit subject for poetry. It is not a branch of authorship: it is "the stuff of which our life is made". The rest is mere oblivion, a dead letter, for all that is worth remembering in life is the poetry of it. Fear is poetry, hope is poetry, love is poetry; hatred is poetry. Poetry is that fine particle within us that expands, refines, raises our whole being; without "man's life is poor as beasts". In fact, man is a poetical animal. The child is a poet when he first plays hide and seek, or repeats the story of Jack the Giant Killer, the shepherd - boy is a poet when he first crowns his mistress with a garland of flowers; the countryman when he stops he stops to look at the rainbow; the miser when he hugs his gold; the courtier when he builds his hope upon a smile; the vain, the ambitious the proud, the choleric man, the hero and the coward, the beggar and the king, all live in a world of their own making; and the poet does no more than describe what all others think and act. Hazlitt

Contempt = dislike

cumbersome = awkward

miser = miser

Questions

choleric → bad-tempered

(a) In what sense is poetry the language of the imagination and the passion?

Poetry is the language of imagination and passion because of multiple reasons. First, it represents general and clear subjects of society which manifests the creativity of mankind. Second, every man is a poetical animal and their poetry represents their passion and love for their beloved things. Thus, poetry is the language of imagination and passion.

(b) How is poetry the Universal Language of the heart?

Poetry is the universal language of the heart because it speaks through the heart. It deals with abstract

concepts such as beauty, power, harmony and many more. It explains basic human emotions like fear, hope, love, etc. So, every man, when they speak from their heart, practices poetry. Hence, poetry is the universal language of the heart.

(c) What is the difference between history and poetry?

There are multiple differences between history and poetry. The former deals with inconvenient events in which world affairs are manifested through the lens of war. While latter is the language of love, feelings and emotions which portrays the world as a peaceful place. Second, history is a dry subject; therefore, most people do not take an interest in the subject. On the other hand, poetry is the language of common people which can easily be communicated among masses.

(d) Explain the phrase: "Man is a poetical animal".

Man is a poetical animal is a phrase which holds that by nature every person is a poet. Every man can sing and understand poetry and without poetry, their life will become empty. So, man by nature is a poetical animal.

(e) What are some of the actions which Hazlitt calls poetry and its doers poet?

Hazlitt believes that every person is a poet and he only describes what other people think and act. Whether these people are children, shepherds, countrymen, and the miser, they all sing poetry to show their feelings for their loved ones and their actions speak their desire for their beloved ones.

(f) Explain the followings underlined expression in the passage.

(i) It relates to whatever gives immediate pleasure or pain to human heart

Poetry sometimes give pleasure and pain depending upon the topic on which poetry is written or sing.

(ii) A sense of beauty, or power, or harmony.

These all are abstract concepts which can be manifest itself themselves in poetry.

(iii) Cumbersome and unwieldy masses of things.

Awkward and undesirable things are mostly portrayed in history.

(iv) It is the stuff of which our life is made

Poetry is inalienable to humans because every man is a poetical animal.

(v) The poet does no more than describe what all others think and act.

The poet does not represent his own thoughts, but display the bigger picture of society.

Marks Obtained

1. Idea was picked?
2. Language structure is appropriate?
3. Quality of organization and cohesion?
4. Grammatical structure?
5. Length as per requirement?
6. Response is Correct?
7. Overall quality of response?
8. Spelling(s) quality?

YES

NO

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