

Date: _____

Evolving Middle Class

Becant penned down about the middle class of the 9th century, they were not part of the society in any manner. Only two factors determined their involvement either birth or the network. They were not welcomed anywhere hence they created their own contended space community. With passing time and growing influential population their position evolved. Moreover, their self esteem strengthened. They became more aware regarding the existing classes. Resultantly despised the elite and emphasized with the poor. They practiced values to inspire lower strata. However amongst the class there were diverse opinions but were united on certain matters.

WORD COUNT:

95

Précis 23: CSS 2000

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

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 all kinds (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." / 20

Since then, however, the life of the middle classes had undergone great changes as their numbers had swelled and their influence had increased. / 15

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 values of society, thrift, hand work, piety and respectability. 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.