

**PRÉCIS**  
**Central Superior Services Examination (CSS) 2003**

**Passage.**

If then a practical end must be assigned to a University course, I say it is that of training good members of a society. It is the art of social life, and its end is fitness for the world. It neither confines its views to particular professions on the one hand, nor creates heroes or inspires genius on the other. Works indeed of genius fall under no art; heroic minds come under no rule; a University is not a birthplace of poets or of immortal authors, of founders of schools, leaders of colonies, or conquerors of nations. It does not promise a generation of Aristotle or Newtons or Napoleons or Washingtons or Raphaels or Shakespeares though such miracles of nature it has before now contained within its precincts. Nor is it content on the other hand with forming the critic or the experimentalist, the economist or the engineer, through such too it includes within its scope. But a University training is the great ordinary means to a great ordinary end; it aims at raising the intellectual tone of society, at cultivating the public mind, at purifying the national taste, at supplying true principles to popular aspirations. It is the education which gives a man a clear conscious view of his own opinions and judgments, a truth in developing them, an eloquence in expressing them, and a force in urging them, it teaches him to see things as they are, to go right to the point, to disentangle a skein of thought, to detect what is sophistical and to - discard what is irrelevant. It prepares him to fill any post with credit, and to master any subject with facility. (John H. Newman)

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## Wisdom is from Education

A University course must have practical applications to <sup>prepare</sup> civilized members for a society, leading to a better world. Moreover, University is neither myopic in offering diverse professions, nor a birthplace of producing poets or heroic minds. Similarly, neither it guarantees a generation of influentials like Newton or Shakespeare, nor it ensures formation of experimentalist or pragmatic minds. However, higher education provides critical thinkers who could overhaul the society and national aspirations. Education inculcates in man a thought for making opinions and judgments on true lines. Thus, it teaches man keeping himself to the right path, and prepares him for the upcoming challenges of life.

Original text = 286 words.

Precis = 105 words

### Remarks by Examiner

#### In main précis

	Yes	No
1. Main idea is picked	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Main aspect(s) of an idea is/are covered	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Written in student's own language structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Cohesion/rhythm/orgnization needs improvement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Spelling(s) mistakes are found	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Need for improvement in grammar	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Is length per Requirement?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### In Title

	Yes	No
1. Title matches with précis/main idea	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Language of title is weak/incorrect	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Length of title as per standard	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### Marks

Main Précis: \_\_\_\_\_/15

Title: \_\_\_\_\_/5

#### Remarks

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## Use of preposition:

- (i) What time do we arrive at our destination?  
(ii) We are flying over some rough weather, please fasten your seatbelts.  
(iii) It is warming up; at noon we should be able to do swimming.  
(iv) My parents are not responsible for my actions.  
(v) This pan is for cooking omlettes  
(vi) For poor attendance, this course is being cancelled.  
(vii) The police took the men in for questioning.  
(viii) The woman you gave the book to is my aunt.

## Correction:

- (i) He enjoyed during the holidays.  
Ans: He enjoyed himself during the holidays.  
(ii) None of the boys had learnt their lesson  
Ans: None of the boys had learnt its lesson  
(iii) I regret at the delay  
Ans: I regret the delay  
(iv) He is abusing the money of his father.  
Ans: He is wasting the money of his father.  
(v) I could not help but laugh.  
Ans: I could not help myself but laugh.  
(vi) I always have and always shall be your friend.  
Ans: I always have and shall be your friend.  
(vii) I was out walking when I saw the new moon in the garden.  
Ans: I was out walking in the garden when I saw the new moon.  
(viii) He cried as if he was mad.  
Ans: He cried as if he were mad.

**Q. 3. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:**

**(20)**

The New Year is the time for resolution. Mentally, at least most of us could compile formidable lists of 'do's and 'don'ts'. The same old favorites recur year in and year out with the children, do a thousand and one job about the house, be nice to people we don't like, drive carefully, and take the dog for a walk every day. Past experience has taught us that certain accomplishments are beyond attainment. If we remain deep rooted liars, it is only because we have so often experienced the frustration that results from failure.

Most of us fail in our efforts at self-improvement because our schemes are too ambitious and we never have time to carry them out. We also make the fundamental error of announcing our resolution to everybody so that we look even more foolish when we slip back into our bad old ways. Aware of these pitfalls, this year I attempted to keep my resolution to myself. I limited myself to two modest ambitions, to do physical exercise every morning and to read more in the evening. An overnight party on New Year's Eve provided me with a good excuse for not carrying out either of these new resolutions on the first day of the year, but on the second, I applied myself assiduously to the task.

The daily exercise lasted only eleven minutes and I proposed to do them early in the morning before anyone had got up. The self-discipline required to drag myself out of bed eleven minutes earlier than usual was considerable. Nevertheless, I managed to creep down into the living room for two days before anyone found me out. After jumping about in the carpet and twisted the human frame into uncomfortable positions. I sat down at the breakfast table in an exhausted condition. It was this that betrayed me. The next morning the whole family trooped into watch the performance. That was really unsettling but I fended off the taunts and jibes of the family good humoredly and soon everybody got used to the idea. However, my enthusiasm waned, the time I spent at exercises gradually diminished. Little by little the eleven minutes fell to zero. By January 10th I was back to where I had started from. I argued that if I spent less time exhausting myself at exercises in the morning I would keep my mind fresh for reading when I got home from work. Resisting the hypnotizing effect of television, I sat in my room for a few evenings with my eyes glued to a book. One night, however, feeling cold and lonely, I went downstairs and sat in front of the television pretending to read. That proved to be my undoing, for I soon got back to the old bad habit of dozing off in front of the screen. I still haven't given up my resolution to do more reading. In fact, I have just bought a book entitled 'How to Read a Thousand Words a Minute'. Perhaps it will solve my problem, but I just have not had time to read it.

**Questions:** 1. Why most of us fail in our efforts for self-improvement? **(5)**

2. Why is it a basic mistake to announce our resolution to everybody? **(5)**

3. Why did the writer not carry out his resolution on New Year's Day? **(5)**

4. Find out the words in the above passage which convey the similar meaning to the following:

(1) intimidating (2) peril (3) dwindle (4) repel (5) barb **(5)**

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## Comprehension

Q:1

Ans: There are two major reasons that let most of us fail in our self-improvement efforts. First, we make too ambitious schemes, for which we are far from reality. Secondly, we never happen to have time for fulfilling those schemes. We might fulfill them for some days, but we often fail to carry those self-improvement efforts in the long-run.

Q:2

commit a mistake of announcing

Ans: We should never announce our resolution to everybody. This is because, even a small tiny lag in fulfilling our resolution provides a good chance to our peers for making mockery of us. This resultantly exacerbate the regret of not keeping up with our resolution. Thus, we should never announce our resolution to everybody.

Q:3:

Ans:

The write had carved out two resolutions for himself of doing physical exercise in the morning and reading books in the evening. However, he did not followed his resolutions on New Year's Day due to overnight party on the eve of New Year's day. Thus, he slept late in the night and could not carry out his resolution on the first day of new year.

Q:4

Ans:

word	Synonym	verb :	taunt
Intimidating	Formidable		
Peril	Pitfall		
Dwindle	<del>wane</del> diminish, wane		
Repel	Resist		

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