

their so-called Peace Conference and come away again unsoiled and the affairs of the world in good trim. Even at the present time, if half the politicians in Europe would relinquish the notion that laziness is a crime and go away and do nothing for a little space, we should certainly gain by it. Other examples come crowding into the mind. Thus, every now and then, certain religious sects hold conferences; but though there are evils abroad that are mountains high, though the fate of civilization is still doubtful, the members who attend these conferences spend their time condemning the length of ladies' skirts and the noisiness of dance bands. They would all be better employed lying flat on their backs somewhere, staring at the sky and recovering their mental health.

## PRÉCIS

Most of the evils on the Earth may be considered as a result of exaggerated importance of work and faulty conception of idleness. The people, with misdirected work plans have contributed negatively to the world as compared to those who remain idle. The condition of maintaining peace and progress is linked with taking certain pauses and gaps, rather than continued futile work. The chaotic history of mankind testifies this very notion that busy bees have caused more harm than good to humanity because of their misplaced energies and efforts. Many a tragedy would have been averted if the people at the helm of power had opted to sit idle instead of participating wrongfully. The way opted by various groups and organizations has been found to end up in further deterioration.

**Title: In Praise of Idleness**

### Précis 7: CSS 2016

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

During my vacation last May, I had a hard time choosing a tour. Flights to Japan, Hong Kong and Australia are just too common. What I wanted was somewhere exciting and exotic, a place where I could be spared from the holiday tour crowds. I was so happy when John called up, suggesting a trip to Cherokee, a county in the state of Oklahoma. I agreed and went off with the preparation immediately. We took a flight to Cherokee and visited a town called Qualla Boundary surrounded by magnificent mountain scenery, the town painted a paradise before us. With its Oconaluftee Indian Village reproducing tribal crafts and lifestyles of the 18th century and the outdoor historical pageant Unto These Hills playing six times weekly in the summer nights, Qualla Boundary tries to present a brief image of the Cherokee past to the tourists. Despite the language barrier, we managed to find our way to the souvenir shops with the help of the natives. The shops were filled with rubber tomahawks and colorful traditional war bonnets, made of dyed turkey feathers. Tepees, coneshaped tents made from animal skin, were also pitched near the shops. "Welcome! Want to get anything?" We looked up and saw a middle-aged man smiling at us. We were very surprised by his fluent English. He introduced himself as George and we ended up chatting till lunch time when he invited us for lunch at a nearby coffee shop. "Sometimes, I've to work from morning to sunset during the tour season. Anyway, this is still better off than being a woodcutter ..." Remembrance weighed heavy on George's mind and he went on to tell us that he used to cut firewood for a living but could hardly make ends meet. We learnt from him that the Cherokees do not depend solely on trade for survival. During the tour off-peak period, the tribe would have to try out other means for income. One of the successful ways is the "Bingo Weekend". On the Friday afternoons of the Bingo weekends, a large bingo hall was opened, attracting huge crowds of people to the various kinds of games like the Super Jackpot and the Warrior Game Special. According to George, these forms of entertainment

fetch them great returns. Our final stop in Qualla Boundary was at the museum where arts, ranging from the simple hand-woven oak baskets to wood and stone carvings of wolves, ravens and other symbols of Cherokee cosmology are displayed. Back at home, I really missed the place and I would of course look forward to the next trip to another exotic place.

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Practice Précis #1

Saturday

## A visit to Cherokee

The author states that he wanted to visit a place that is not crowded with tourists. On the suggestion of a friend, he visited Cherokee along with him. They visited a beautiful town in Cherokee. They went to the shops and saw many things there. They met a local man who was a woodcutter and has very fluent English. He invited them for lunch. He told them that they do not depend only on trade. They also make their income from various kinds of games<sup>85</sup> when they gather in a big hall on weekends. They had also visited a museum. A wide range of art collection was displayed in the museum. The author also wants to visit more astonishing place in the next trip.

Words in passage : 360 words

Words in Précis : 120 words

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