



PRÉCIS

Central Superior Services Examination (CSS) 1998

Passage.

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 fire than 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 tongue has got the knack of lying, it is difficult 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. I have a decent lad as my tailor, whom I have never heard to utter a single truth, even when it would have been to his advantage. If, like the truth, falsehood had only one face, we should know better where we are, for we should then take the opposite of what a liar said to be the truth. But the opposite of a truth has a hundred thousand shapes and a limitless field. The Pythagoreans regard good as certain and finite, and evil as boundless and 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. St Augustine said 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.

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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/organization 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

The horror and gravity of an Untruth.

Lying is indeed a curse. Men communicate with each other on the basis of speech. If the value of truth is recognized, everyone considers it the biggest crime. Most parents blame their children for heedless acts without identifying the root cause. If the habit of lying becomes permanent, it is difficult to correct it. A person can become habitual of lying even if the truth is supporting him. Truth is always tortured. The pathagoreans regard evil as limitless and good as finite. The author is not in favor of telling lies to get rid of danger. According to St Augustine, it is better to live in the company of a dog than of a man whose language is not clear.

Words in Precis: 116

Total words = ¹⁵⁹ 260