

Mastering Précis for PMS, CSS

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PRÉCIS
Central Superior Services Examination (CSS) 1980²

Passage.

The attention we give to terrorism often seems disproportionate to its real importance. Terrorism incidents make superb copy for journalists, but kill and maim fewer people than road accidents. Nor is terrorism politically effective. Empires rise and fall according to the real determinants of politics — namely overwhelming force or strong popular support — not according to a bit of mayhem caused by isolated fanatics whom one would take seriously enough to vote for it. Indeed, the very variety of incidents that might be described as “terrorism” has been such as to lead critics to suggest that no single subject for investigation exists at all. Might we not regard terrorism as a kind of minor blotch on the skin of an industrial civilization whose very heart is filled with violent dreams and aspirations? Who would call in the dermatologist when the heart itself is sick? But popular opinion takes terrorism very serious indeed and popular opinion is probably right. For the significance of terrorism lies not only in the grotesque nastiness of terroristic outrages but also in the moral claims they imply. Terrorism is the most dramatic exemplification of the moral fault of blind willfulness. Terrorism is a solipsistic denial of the obligation of self-control we all must recognise when we live in civilized communities. Certainly the sovereign high road to misunderstanding terrorism is the pseudo scientific project of attempting to discover its causes. Terrorists themselves talk of the frustrations which have supposedly necessitated their actions, but to transform these facile justifications into scientific hypotheses is to succumb to the terrorists own fantasies. To kill and maim people is a choice people make, and glib invocations of necessity are baseless. Other people living in the same situation see no such necessity at all. Hence there are no “causes” of terrorism, only decision to terrorize. It is a moral phenomenon and only a moral discussion can be adequate to it.

The Concept of Terrorism

The author describes that terrorism has been wrongly understood. Journalists always find the chance to project minor incidents of terrorism. In fact, road accidents kill more people than terrorism. Moreover, terrorism is not politically as effective as the rise and fall of great civilizations. Terrorism is a minor aspect in civilization. The projection of journalists make terrorism prominent. It is a minor imoral error of individuals who lack self-control in society. Terrorists describe the faults of society and try to change with aggression. Further, people harm others by choice. Thus, decisions lead the people to become aggressive.

(Total words in Original
Passage 299)

(Words 98)

Remarks by Examiner

In main précis

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

In Title

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

Marks

Main Précis: _____ /15 Title: _____ /5

Remarks

main idea is picked and discussed

basic grammar is satisfactory and sentence structure is fine

8/20

(total marks 10)