

**PRÉCIS**  
**Central Superior Services Examination (CSS) 1997**

**Passage.**

Exploration in the Arctic Circle still offers countless opportunities for fresh discoveries, but it is an adventure which is not to be undertaken lightly. As an occupation it is more lonely and remote than anything else in the world and at any moment the traveller must be prepared to encounter hazard and difficulty which call for all his skill and enterprise. Nevertheless such exploration will be carried as long as there are investigated areas to attract the daring and as long as the quest for knowledge inspires mankind. Investigations have shown that the Arctic zone is rich in mineral deposits, but even if these deposits were themselves of little value, the economic importance of the Arctic would not be appreciably lessened. For it is generally agreed that weather is made in the North, and as the success or failure of the harvests all over the world is largely determined by the weather, it follows that agriculture and all those industrial and commercial activities dependent upon it must be considerably affected by the accuracy of the daily weather reports. Modern meteorologists regard the conditions prevailing in the Arctic as of first-rate importance in helping them to arrive at accurate results in their forecasts. Yet quite apart from any economic or other practical considerations, there is a strange fascination about this vast unconquered region of stern northern beauty. Those who have once entered the vast polar regions like to speak of their inexpressible beauty, the charm of the yellow sun and dazzling ice packs, the everlasting snows and unmapped land where one never knows what lies ahead; it may be a gigantic glacier, which reflects a beam of sunlight over its frozen expanse or some wonderful fantastically shaped cliff which makes an unfading impression on the memory. It may even be an iceberg stately and terrifying, moving on its relentless way, for the Arctic; is the birthplace of the great icebergs which threaten navigation.



Final Draft

## The Arctic Circle and its Features

The Arctic regions with risky features still provide opportunities for discoveries. The traveller should have enormous skills, interest for knowledge and research before exploring the regions. The Arctic Circle is famous for its natural resources which contribute to the economies of the Arctic regions. The weather of the Arctic Circle also boosts the knowledge of researchers to collect correct data about forecasts. Moreover, the regions of Arctic have enormous features for economic growths. The Arctic's landscape has unique characteristics which capture the sights of humans.

Total words = 246

Summarized words = 86



**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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## CSS-2019

When I returned to the common the sun was setting. The crowd about the pit had increased, and stood out black against the lemon yellow of the sky—a couple of hundred people, perhaps. There were raised voices, and some sort of struggle appeared to be going on about the pit. Strange imaginings passed through my mind. As I drew nearer I heard Stent's voice: "Keep back! Keep back!" A boy came running towards me. "It's movin'," he said to me as he passed; "it's screwin' and screwin' out. I don't like it. I'm goin' home, I am." I went on to the crowd. There were really, I should think, two or three hundred people elbowing and jostling one another, the one or two ladies there being by no means the least active. "He's fallen in the pit!" cried someone. "Keep back!" said several. The crowd swayed a little, and I elbowed my way through. Everyone seemed greatly excited. I heard a peculiar humming sound from the pit. "I say!" said Ogilvy. "Help keep these idiots back. We don't know what's in the confounded thing, you know!" I saw a young man, a shop assistant in Woking I believe he was, standing on the cylinder and trying to scramble out of the hole again. The crowd had pushed him in. The end of the cylinder was being screwed out from within. Nearly two feet of shining screw projected. Somebody blundered against me, and I narrowly missed being pitched onto the top of the screw. I turned, and as I did so the screw must have come out, for the lid of the cylinder fell upon the gravel with a ringing concussion. I stuck my elbow into the person behind me, and turned my head towards the Thing again. For a moment that circular cavity seemed perfectly black. I had the sunset in my eyes. I think everyone expected to see a man emerge—possibly something a little unlike us terrestrial men, but in all essentials a man. I know I did. But, looking, I presently saw something stirring within the shadow: greyish billowy movements, one above another, and then two luminous disks—like eyes. Then something resembling a little grey snake, about the thickness of a walking stick, coiled up out of the writhing middle, and wriggled in the air towards me—and then another. A sudden chill came over me. There was a loud shriek from a woman behind. I half turned, keeping my eyes fixed upon the cylinder still, from which other tentacles were now projecting, and began pushing my way back from the edge of the pit. I saw astonishment giving place to horror on the faces of the people about me. I heard inarticulate exclamations on all sides. There was a general movement backwards. I saw the shopman struggling still on the edge of the pit. I found myself alone, and saw the people on the other side of the pit running off, Stent among them. I looked again at the cylinder and ungovernable terror gripped me. I stood petrified and staring. A big greyish rounded bulk, the size, perhaps, of a bear, was rising slowly and painfully out of the cylinder. As it bulged up and caught the light, it glistened like wet leather. Two large dark-coloured eyes were regarding me steadfastly. The mass that framed them, the head of the thing, was rounded, and had, one might say, a face. There was a mouth under the eyes, the lipless brim of which quivered and panted, and dropped saliva. The whole creature heaved and pulsated convulsively. A lank tentacular appendage gripped the edge of the cylinder, another swayed in the air. Those who have never seen a living Martian can scarcely imagine the strange horror of its appearance. The peculiar V-shaped mouth with its pointed upper lip, the absence of brow ridges, the absence of a chin beneath the wedge-like lower lip, the incessant quivering of this mouth, the Gorgon



groups of tentacles, the tumultuous breathing of the lungs in a strange atmosphere, the evident heaviness and painfulness of movement due to the greater gravitational energy of the earth above all, the extraordinary intensity of the immense eyes—were at once vital, intense, inhuman, crippled and monstrous. There was something fungoid in the oily brown skin, something in the clumsy deliberation of the tedious movements unspeakably nasty. Even at this first encounter, this first glimpse, I was overcome with disgust and dread.

## Questions

1. What leads us to believe that this passage is from a science fiction story? (4)

Ans: The passage has numerous narrative and descriptive features. The narrative features include a person in the pit. The descriptive characteristics consist the physical description of the horrible creature. Thus, these features of the passage lead us to believe that this passage is from science fiction story.

2. How was the crowd behaving? (4)

The crowd was behaving chaotically. The people were elbowing and pushing one another. The people were trying to know about the pit. In the pit there existed the sound of a man. The man was shop assistant who fell mistakenly in the pit.

3. Why did the mood of the crowd alter? (4)

Ans: The narrator described that he saw the shop's assistant, he was struggling on the edge of the pit to come out. At the same time, the people were running from the other side of the pit due to the appearance of horrible creature from cylinder. Thus, the appearance of an horrible creature alter the mood of people.



4. What was the narrator's initial reaction to the "Thing"? (4)

The narrator described the appearance of the thing as notorious and dreadful. At the end of the passage, the narrator ascribed that he felt fear. This was a fearful glimpse for the narrator. But soon the writer overcame with the dread.

5. Why did the writer feel disgusted? (4)

Ans: The horrible appearance of the inhuman and monstrous creature at first made the narrator dreadful. Later, he <sup>over</sup>disgusted the fear so as to compete the thing. The narrator disgusted the fear to combat for his life.

### Marks Obtained

	YES	NO
1. Idea was picked?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Language structure is appropriate?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Quality of organization and cohesion?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Grammatical structure?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Length as per requirement?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Response is Correct?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Overall quality of response?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Spelling(s) quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Comments

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