

FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION FOR  
RECRUITMENT TO POSTS IN BPS-17 UNDER  
THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, 2000

ENGLISH (Précis & Composition)

TIME ALLOWED: **3 HOURS** ..... Maximum Marks: 100

Q1. MAKE A PRÉCIS OF THE FOLLOWING PASSAGE IN ABOUT ONE THIRD OF ITS LENGTH. Suggest a suitable title also. (20)

Besant describing the middle class of the 19th century wrote "In the first place it was for more a class apart. In no sense did it belong to society. Men in professions of any kind (except in the Army and Navy) could only belong to society by right of birth and family connections; men in trade—bankers were still accounted tradesmen—could not possibly belong to society. That is to say, if they went to live in the country they were not called upon by the county families and in the town they were not admitted by the men into their clubs, or by ladies into their houses. The middle class knew its own place, respected itself, made its own society for itself, and cheerfully accorded to rank the deference due."

Since then, however, the life of the middle classes had undergone great changes as their numbers had swelled and their influence had increased.

Their already well-developed consciousness of their own importance had deepened. More critical than they had been in the past of certain aspects of aristocratic life, they were also more concerned with the plight of the poor and the importance of their own values of society, thrift, hand work, piety and respectability as examples of ideal behavior for the guidance of the lower orders. Above all they were respectable. There were divergences of opinion as to what exactly was respectable and what was not. There were, nevertheless, certain conventions, which were universally recognized: wild and drunker behaviors were certainly not respectable, nor were godlessness or avert promiscuity, not an ill-ordered-home life, unconventional manners, self-indulgence or flamboyant clothes and personal adornments.

19

Precis 2000

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Evolution of Middle Class

Besant wrote about middle class as they were class apart and did not belong to any society. As for men except those in military whether tradesmen or banker they could not belong to society. Living abroad neither they were allowed to be in clubs nor in houses. Time passed by they created their own society with parameters of respect, hard work and piety. That was considered an ideal characteristic of an individual - whereas, ill-mannered houses, drunkenness and wild behavior was not considered respectable at all.

20

(66)