

Past Paper Year 1998 | English for CSS Aspirants | Eureka Study Aids

1. Make a precis of the following passage about one third of its length and suggest a suitable title.

Lying is indeed an accursed vice. We are men, and we have relations with one another 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. Laying - 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.

Lying: An evil act

The author describes lying as an evil act. He says lying should be more punishable than other crimes. He has seen people trying their best to protect children from telling lies. He says lying should be opposed because it is difficult to correct when someone is used to lying.

Besides this, he has seen many people who are used to lying.

He describes according to a scholar good is precise and effective while evil is unclear and not effective. He assures

that he will not lie even in worse situation. Author mentions the saying of another scholar that, it is better to be accompanied by dog than a human whose language has flaws.

Total words = 317

Precis words = 113

CSS-2001

Poetry is the language of imagination and the passions. It relates to whatever gives immediate pleasure or pain to human mind; it comes home to the bosoms and business of men: for nothing but what comes home to them in the most general and intelligible shape can be a subject of poetry. Poetry is the universal language which the heart holds with nature and itself. He who has a contempt for poetry cannot have heart or harmony, as in the motion of the waves of the sea, in the growth of a flower, or power is a poetry in its birth. If history is a grave study, poetry may be said to be graver, its materials lie deeper, and are spread wider. History treats, for the most part, cumbers are packed, under the heads of intrigue or war, in different states, and from century to century but there is no thought or feeling that can have entered into the mind of man which he would be eager to communicate to others, or they would listen to with delight, that is not a fit subject for poetry. It is not a branch of authorship: it is "the stuff of which our life is made". The rest is mere oblivion, a dead letter, for all that is worth remembering in life is the poetry of it. Fear is Poetry, hope is poetry, love is poetry; hatred is poetry. Poetry is that fine particle within us that expands, refines and raises our whole being; without "man's life is poor as beasts". In fact, man is a poetical animal. The child is a poet when he first plays hide and seek, or repeats the story of Jack the Giant Killer, the shepherd - boy is a poet when he first crowns his mistress with a garland of flowers; the countryman when he stops he stops to look at the rainbow; the miser when he hugs his gold; the courtier when he builds his hope upon a smile; the vain, the ambitious the proud, the choleric man, the hero and the coward, the beggar and the king, all live in a world of their own making; and the poet does no more than describe what all others think and act. Hazlitt

Questions

(a) In what sense is poetry the language of the imagination and the passion?

poetry is the language of imagination and passion because it describes human emotions and its description is in a way that could be easily comprehended by human.

(b) How is poetry the Universal Language of the heart?

Poetry finds its roots in the pleasure and pain of human mind, in the blooming of flowers and anything that inspires human emotions. All these phenomena are universal and appeal to heart. Why poetry is universal language of heart.

(c) What is the difference between history and poetry? History is grave and void of feelings. It speaks of complex things or things which have happened. It gives particular facts. Poetry is graver and speaks of things that might happen. It is involuntary movement of imagination and passion. It is universal and gives general truths.

(d) Explain the phrase: "Man is a poetical animal".

Man's actions are based on feelings and thoughts which makes the essence of poetry while an animal does perform actions but they are devoid of any such element, so man is poetical animal.

(e) What are some of the actions which Hazlitt calls poetry and its doers poet?

Hazlitt called the child playing hide and seek for the first time, Jack slaying giants, boy crowning his lover with flowers. A person hoping for best, miser's love for wealth, courtier's hope for success, the conceited person, proud of an ambitious person and assertive person as poet and their respective actions poetry.

(f) Explain the followings underlined expression in the passage.

(i) It relates to whatever gives immediate pleasure or pain to human heart
Poetry is about what inspires human emotions
instantly. It can be a joyful inspiration or
the one causing distress

(ii) A sense of beauty, or power, or harmony.
~~History~~ is Human's mind get influence from something
that is beautiful, powerful and harmonious.

(iii) Cumbersome and unwieldy masses of things.
History speaks of events that are void of
emotions which make it complex and dry.

(iv) It is the stuff of which our life is made
Human's feelings and thoughts are crux of
their life. These also made the epicentre for poetry
so poetry make stuff for our
life.

(v) The poet does no more than describe what all others think and act.
A poet describes only human actions &

Marks Obtained

thoughts in a lucid manner.

1. Idea was picked?
2. Language structure is appropriate?
3. Quality of organization and cohesion?
4. Grammatical structure?
5. Length as per requirement?
6. Response is Correct?
7. Overall quality of response?
8. Spelling(s) quality?

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