

Mastering Précis for PMS, CSS

PRÉCIS

Central Superior Services Examination (CSS) 2000

Passage.

Besant describing the middle class of the 9th century wrote "In the first place it was more a class apart. "In no sense did it belong to society. Men in professions of any keep (except in the Army and Navy) could only belong to society by right of birth and far connections; men in trade—bankers were still accounted tradesmen—could possibly belong to society. That is to say, if they went to live in the country they we 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 or place, respected itself, made its own society for itself, and cheerfully accorded to rath the deference due."

Since then, however, the life of the middle classes had undergone great changes at their numbers had swelled and their influence had increased. Their already well-developed consciousness of their own importance had deepened. More critical that they had been in the past of certain aspects of aristocratic life, they wee also more concerned with the plight of the poor and the importance of their own values of society thrift, hand work, piety and respectability thrift, hand work, piety and respectability examples of ideal behavior for the guidance of the lower orders. Above all they were what was not. There were divergences of opinion as to what exactly was respectable and 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.



