

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 9th 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, hard work, piety and respectability. Thrift, hard 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 drunken 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.

Positive Evolution and Influential Role of 9th century middle class into the Society

The optimistic development of the 9th-century middle class into an influential class of the society by recognising the self-potential was quite impactful. Except for the individuals having the right of birth and family connections or those serving in Army or Navy, all other members were treated as segregated community.

However, the middle class knew their place and created a society of their own ^{that} ~~and~~ increased gradually and maintained their influence. Furthermore, having experienced aristocratic life, they recognised the deplorable state of the poor and importance of own values in the society. Most importantly, they were respectable towards universal conventions irrespective of different opinions. Therefore, indecent behaviours and manners, atheism, unordered home life, and improper clothing were mutually disregarded.

Total Words : 334

Precis Words : 118