

ENGLISH (PRECIS & COMPOSITION)

Time Allowed: 03 Hours

Total Marks: 100

Q.No.1 Make a précis of the passage below and suggest a suitable title:

(20)

Imagine a Pakistan where its economic troubles start to fade away! Here is where Information Technology (IT) exports step in. The sector — the freelancing community, software companies, and the broader technology industry — has been steadily expanding in recent times. Sure, there have been murmurs of a slowdown, but the sector's potential as an economic powerhouse is undeniable. But the issue is the gap between the IT sector's academia and industry. High taxes are also a problem. They are pushing Pakistan's brightest computer science (CS) graduates away from IT firms. Instead, many are choosing the freedom of freelancing, drawn by the promise of higher pay and fewer financial burdens. Another liability is that IT engineers from CS programs are missing the mark when it comes to soft skills. The lack of these skills hinders their growth because they are unable to communicate in an environment where teamwork is key. Their communication skills are found wanting, taking the focus off their technical abilities as well. Soft skills are essential across the board, yet they are often overlooked in academic coursework. Despite a flood of IT graduates, many struggle with employability as they lack modern training and critical thinking skills needed to thrive in today's fast-paced digital economy. Most importantly, reliable internet access and a robust IT infrastructure are non-negotiable for supporting remote operations, particularly in sectors reliant on work-from-home and online learning. If we are to harness its full potential, a concerted effort to bridge these gaps is imperative. Only through collaborative partnerships and a commitment to fostering a reliable digital landscape can the country transform its IT sector into a powerhouse that not only competes on the global stage but also drives socio-economic progress for generations come.



Pakistan's IT Sector: Gaps and Way forward

Information technology is expanding rapidly and holds the potential to solve Pakistan's economic problems. However, a gap exists between the IT sector's academia and industry, while high taxes discourage graduates from joining IT firms. As a result, many computer science (CS) graduates rely on freelancing. Moreover, many candidates fail to develop critical thinking, communication and technical skills which limits their careers. In addition, remote areas have weak ^{IT} infrastructure and unreliable internet services. To address these issues, teamwork and modern training are essential. It will enable Pakistan to utilise the IT sector for long-term socio-economic development.