

FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION FOR
RECRUITMENT TO POSTS IN BPS-17 UNDER
THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, 2001

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 and suggest a suitable heading. (20)

It was not from want of perceiving the beauty of external nature but from the different way of perceiving it, that the early Greeks did not turn their genius to portray, either in colour or in poetry, the outlines, the hues, and contrasts of all fair valley, and hold cliffs, and golden moons, and rosy lawns which their beautiful country affords in lavish abundance.

Primitive people never so far as I know, enjoy when is called the picturesque in nature, wild forests, beetling cliffs, reaches of Alpine snow are with them great hindrances to human intercourse, and difficulties in the way of agriculture. They are furthermore the homes of the enemies of mankind, of the eagle, the wolf, or the tiger, and are most dangerous in times of earthquake or tempest. Hence the grand and striking features of nature are at first looked upon with fear and dislike.

I do not suppose that Greeks different in the respect from other people, except that the frequent occurrence of mountains and forests made agriculture peculiarly difficult and intercourse scanty, thus increasing their dislike for the apparently reckless waste in nature. We have even in Homer a similar feeling as regards the sea, --- the sea that proved the source of all their wealth and the condition of most of their greatness. Before they had learned all this, they called it "the unvintagable sea" and looked upon its shore as merely so much waste land. We can, therefore, easily understand, how in the first beginning of Greek art, the representation of wild landscape would find no place, whereas, fruitful fields did not suggest themselves as more than the ordinary background. Art in those days was struggling with material nature to which it felt a certain antagonism.

There was nothing in the social circumstances of the Greeks to produce any revolution in this attitude during their greatest days. The Greek republics were small towns where the pressure of the city life was not felt. But as soon as the days of the Greek republics were over, the men began to congregate for imperial purposes into Antioch, or Alexandria, or lastly into Rome, than we seek the effect of noise and dust and smoke and turmoil breaking out into the natural longing for rural rest and retirement so that

Practice 2. CHS-2001 paper

57 min

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~~(Q#1)~~

Title:

Greek Perception of Nature and Its Influence on Art

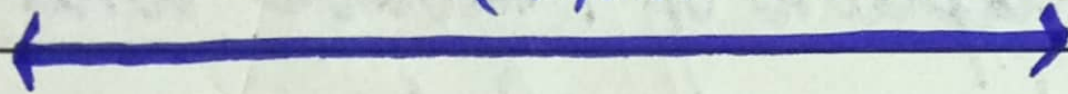
Early Greeks did not represent the marvels of external nature in their works due to their different look on it. Primitive people never enjoyed the scenic beauty of nature because they considered it an obstacle in the way of human socio-economic progress. They considered nature dangerous, frightening, and home of enemies of mankind. Greeks were also like the other people of that time and faced similar problems. They considered sea as waste land as its water was not suitable for drinking and later came to realize that it was the source of their wealth and greatness. Therefore, it is evident that why the portrayal of nature was not appreciated and struggled in the beginning of Greek art. Later, there were many authors who represented nature in the works, when

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the greek republics were over and people
began to assemble in the capitals for
various goals.

(Word count: 146 words)



Q2. Read the following passage and answer the questions given at the end in your own words. (20)

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 much respect for himself or for anything else. Whatever there is a sense of beauty, or power, or harmony, as in the motion of the waves of the sea, in the growth of a flower, there 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, cumbersome and unwieldy masses of things, the empty cases in which the affairs of the world 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, 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 cholerick 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?
- (b) How is poetry the Universal Language of the heart?
- (c) What is the difference between history and poetry?
- (d) Explain the phrase: "Man is a poetical animal".
- (e) What are some of the actions which Hazlitt calls poetry and its doers poet?
- (f) Explain the followings underlined expression in the passage.
 - (i) It relates to whatever gives immediate pleasure or pain to human heart
 - (ii) A sense of beauty, or power, or harmony.
 - (iii) Cumbersome and unwieldy masses of things.
 - (iv) It is the stuff of which our life is made.



- (v) The poet does no more than describe what all others think and act.

(Word count: 146 words)

Comprehension

40 min

~~Q#2~~

~~i)~~

Poetry relates to the different emotions and feelings of the human life. Poetry gives sense of pleasure and happiness. It also relates to the feelings of pain and sorrow. Therefore, in this sense poetry is the language of the imagination and the passion.

~~ii)~~

Poetry is the universal language of the heart as it expresses the passion of human heart for the sense of beauty, power, and harmony in every aspect of the universe.

(iii)

Poetry differs from history in its essence. History deals with the dry and harsh realities of past human life on superficial level. Whereas, poetry communicates and conveys the emotions and feelings of those realities to the readers. Poetry is much deeper and wider in its scope as compared to the history.

(iv)

The phrase, "Man is a poetical animal", means man's life is surrounded by poetry. Poetry is a fundamental aspect of human life to communicate the emotions and feelings such as fear, hope, love, and hatred. Without poetry man's life is poor and purposeless.

(v)

Child plays hide and seek, repeats the story, rural man looks at the rainbow, and miser hugs his gold. All these actions are poetic and their doers are poets.

—(vi)—

1. It relates to whatever gives immediate pleasure or pain to human heart:

→ Poetry conveys and communicates emotions of pleasure and pain to human heart.

2. A sense of beauty, or power, or harmony:

→ Poetry is everywhere around us. It is in the beauty, authority, and harmony of the things around us.

3. Cumbersome and unwieldy masses of things:

→ History deals with the dry and harsh realities of primitive people.

4. It is the stuff of which our life is made:

→ Thoughts and emotions of human life are the fundamental aspects of it.

5. The poet does no more than describe what all others think and act:

→ The poet illustrates the thoughts, emotions, actions, and feelings of all the human beings.