

Précis 24: CSS 1999

Q.2: Write a précis of the following passage and suggest a suitable title: (20)

To have faith in the dignity and worth of the individual man as an end in himself, to believe that it is better to be governed by persuasion than by selfish and contentious spirit, to believe that in the long run all values are inseparable from the love of truth and the disinterested search for it, to believe that knowledge and the power it confers should be used to promote the welfare and happiness of all men, rather than to serve the interests of those individuals and classes whom fortune and intelligence endow with temporary advantage - these are the values which are affirmed by the traditional democratic ideology. The case of democracy is that it accepts the rational and humane values as ends and proposes as the means of realizing them the minimum of coercion and the maximum of voluntary assent. We may well abandon the cosmological temple in which the democratic ideology originally enshrined these values, without renouncing the faith it was designed to celebrate. The essence of that faith is belief in the capacity of man, as a rational and humane creature to achieve the good life by rational and humane means. The chief virtue of democracy, and the soul reason for cherishing it is that with all its faults it still provides the most favourable condition for achieving that end by those means.

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The Sin of Lying (1999)

Humans communicate mainly through speech, making a lie, a great offense, and thus, punishable. Parents do not discipline their children over lying, considering it to be harmless. The trait gets worse with age, even becoming permanent, and thus difficult to rectify later in life. Due to its vast and varied nature, a lie is difficult to detect, unlike the truth, which is singular. Lying breeds an untrustworthy nature in human interaction. It is thus, better to stay silent, rather than tell a lie.

Words : 82

c. Nature of the writer's ideas

Précis 23: CSS 2000

Q.2: Write a précis of the following passage and suggest a suitable title: (20)

Besant describing the middle class of the 19th 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

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values of society, thrift, hand work, piety and respectability. Thrift, hand 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 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 adorments.

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The Evolution of The Middle

Class

(2000)

The author explains status of middle class in 19th century, stating they did not belong anywhere and were not allowed to mix in with the higher class.

One had to be either born or well connected to earn a place in rich society. With time, the middle class rose. It evolved and grew, earning a separate place for themselves in society. It consisted of hardworking and dignified people, who cared about the lower class as well. They did not share the same erratic passions as that of the rich.

Words: 89