Precis Writing - Workbook

Write the precis of the following passages reducing its length to one third. Don’t miss out any important point.

Passage 1

A drop of water fell out of the cloud into the sea, and finding itself lost in such an immensity of fluid matter, broke out into the following reflection: ‘Alas! What an inconsiderable creature am I in this prodigious ocean of waters: My existence is of no concern in the universe; ‘I am reduced to a kind of nothing, and am the least of the works of God’. It so happened that an oyster which lay in the neighborhood of this drop chanced to gape and swallow it up in the midst of this his soliloquy. The drop, say the fables, lay a great while hardening in the shell, until by degrees it was ripened into a pearl, falling into the hands of a diver, after a long series of adventures, is at present that famous pearl which is fixed on the top of the Persian diadem. [No of words = 147]

Passage 2

Odisha, a small state in the east coast of India, was battered by Cyclone Philine in the last weekend. The cyclone came from the Bay of Bengal. It was the result of a low pressure area developing in the sea. From a location a few hundred kilometers off the coast, Cyclone Philine gradually moved towards the land. The wind speed was nearly 220 kilometers per hour. The violent wind hit villages near the coastline with deadly force. Mud houses were flattened, trees uprooted and power lines were reduced to tangled heaps of wire. Fortunately, weather radars tracked the Philine doggedly as a result of which people were evacuated from their houses that fell in the projected path of Cyclone Philine. Millions of people were quickly moved to temporary shelters with remarkable efficiency. This reduced the death toll to negligible numbers. It was a remarkable success of disaster management in India. In another operation, the Coast Guard spotted a cargo ship at night that had tilted dangerously in the waters a few kilometers off Bengal. Responding to its SOS call, the Coast Guard rushed to its rescue and lifted out the sailors who were floating on their life boat in the dark near their ship. [No of words 204] [Target word count for précis- 68 to 73]

Passage 3

I ran into Janet in a pub when I was in Rome last month to attend a conference on archeology. It was a chance encounter after nearly 20 years. Clearly my wife and I were excited to see Janet after so many years. Memories rushed through my mind. But, we were shocked at what we saw. Janet had grown to healthy beautiful lass, but there was a scar in her face. She wore skimpy dress. Her barely covered back revealed the tattoo of a bearded face. Around her were her male companions, all with rough fierce faces. The tallest and stoutest among them was a person with a beard. We quickly realized that the bearded face tattooed in Janet’s back was his. Obviously, the guy lorded over her. For a moment, I was lost in the memory of the sweet, little kid Janet was 20 years ago. She was so cute that the ladies in the neighborhood vied with one another to cuddle her. Now, Janet had slipped into the world of crimes, living with that evil man. Before we could have few more words with her, she excused herself and rushed to serve drinks to her ‘boss’. When she was a child, I had dreamed that one day she would be a doctor or dancer or an artist and would occupy a responsible position in life. Now, she was a ‘whore’. What had gone wrong? [Number of words 236] [Target word count of précis – 75 to 82]

**Guidelines**

Passage 1

Once, a drop of water, while falling into the sea, ruminated on its inconsequential existence in the vast ocean. Just then, an oyster swallowed it. The water drop, embedded in the shell, became a pearl in due course. A diver got it. After changing many hands, it now decorates the Persian crown. [No of words = 52]

Passage 2

Three days ago, Cyclone Philine coming from a low-pressure area in the Bay of Bengal tore through the coastal areas of the small eastern Indian state Odisha. With 220 kmph wind-speed, it flattened houses, and uprooted trees and power lines. Disaster management personnel evacuated millions to safety from the radar-predicted cyclone path. Also, the Coast Guard rescued some sailors from their life boat at night. Their ship had careened dizzily in the sea. [Number of words ---73

Passage 3

From a Doll to a Moll

For my wife and me, our chance meeting with Janet in a pub in Rome after 20 long years was not a happy experience. She was beautiful and healthy, but had fallen into bad company. Her pub companions were people of bad character. A strongly-built bearded guy had the picture of his face tattooed on Janet’s back. It was exposed by her skimpy dress. Once a moppet whom ladies loved to cuddle, Janet had morphed into a moll hanging around the bearded guy. [Number of words 82]