## Précis Writing

**Sample 1**

We all know what we mean by a "good" man. The ideal man does not drink or smoke, avoids bad language, converses in the presence of men exactly as he would if there were women present, and holds the correct opinion on all subjects. He has a horror of wrongdoing and realizes that it is our painful duty to castigate sin. He has a greater horror of wrong thinking, and considers it the business of the authorities to safeguard the young against those who question the wisdom of the views generally accepted by middle-aged successful citizens.

Apart from his professional duties, at which he is hardworking, he spends much time in good works: he may encourage patriotism and military training; he may promote industry, sobriety and virtue among wage earners and their children by seeing to it that failures in these respects receive due punishment; he may be a trustee of an university and prevent an ill-judged respect for learning by allowing the employment of professors with subversive ideas.

**Characteristics of a good man**

An ideal good man is religious and avoids bad habits such as smoking and drinking. He does not use obscene or indecent language and has a fear of wrongdoing and wrong thinking. He is professionally dutiful and takes active interest in promoting virtues such as patriotism, industry and sobriety among workers and their children. If possible, he prevents the employment of professors with subversive ideas

**Sample 2**

There is an enemy beneath our feet - an enemy more deadly for his complete impartiality. He recognizes no national boundaries, no political parties. He threatens everyone in the world. The enemy is the earth itself. When an earthquake strikes, the world trembles. The power of a quake is greater than anything man himself can produce. But today scientists are directing a great deal of their effort into finding some way of combating earthquakes, and it is possible that at some time in the near future mankind will have discovered a means of protecting itself from earthquakes. An earthquake strikes without warning. When it does, its power is immense. If it strikes a modern city, the damage it causes is as great as if it has struck a primitive village. Gas mains burst, explosions are caused and fires are started. Underground railways are wrecked. Buildings collapse, bridges fall, dams burst, and gaping crevices appear in busy streets. If the quake strikes at sea, huge tidal waves sweep inland.

If it strikes in mountain regions, avalanches roar down into the valley. Consider the terrifying statistics from the past 1755: Lisbon, capital of Portugal - the city destroyed and 450 killed. 1970: Peru: 50,000 killed. In 1968, an earthquake struck Alaska. As this is a relatively unpopulated part, only a few people were killed. However, it is likely that this was one of the most powerful quakes ever to have hit the world. Geologists estimate that during the tremors, the whole of the state moved over 80 feet farther west into the Pacific Ocean. Imagine the power of something that can move an entire subcontinent! This is the problem that the scientists face. They are dealing with forces so immense that man cannot hope to resist them. All that can be done is to try to pinpoint just where the earthquake will strike and work from there. At least some precautionary measures can then be taken to save lives and some of the property.

**Earthquake - The Great Destroyer**

Earthquake is the humanity’s deadly enemy. Earthquake strikes all without a distinction of nationality or political affiliation. The power of a quake is greater than that of any man-made weapon of destruction. An earthquake strikes humanity without a warning. A modern city when struck is reduced -to a nibble. A quake strikes plains, seas and mountains causing all round destruction. The quake struck Lisbon in 1755 killing 450; Peru in 1970 killing 50,000; Alaska in 1968 moving it 80 feet into the Pacific Ocean. Scientists are trying to find out means to combat earthquakes, to predict the origin of the quake so that precautions can be taken to save man and property from destruction.

**Sample 3**

Home is the destined shelter of the weak and inexperienced, who have to learn yet to cope with the temptations, which lies outside of it. It is the place of training of those who are not only ignorant, but have no yet learnt how to learn, and who have to be taught by careful individual trail, how to set about profiting by the lessons of teacher.

In addition, it is the school of elementary studies, not of advances, for such studies alone can make masterminds. Moreover, it is the shrine of our best affections, our fondest recollections, at spell upon our after life, a stay for world-weary mind and soul; wherever we are, until the end comes. Such are attributes or offices of home, and like to these, in one or other sense or measure, are the attributes and offices of a college in a university.

**Home Sweet Home**

Home shelters the young who are weak, unexperienced, and unable to face the temptations in life. It is a centre of their elementary education and a nursery of sweet affections and pleasant memories. Its magic lasts forever. A weary mind turn to it for rest. Such is the function of a home and in some measure of the university.