

English Précis and Composition Past Papers

Idioms	Meaning	Sentence
Carry out	perform a task	We're carrying out a market-research survey.
Taken over	assume control of something	British troops had taken over the German trenches.
Bring about	cause something to happen	Major spending is required to bring about substantial improvements in housing.
Beat out	to make someone tell you something by hitting him	He claims that the confession was beaten out of him.
Bear with	a polite way of asking someone to be patient while you do or finish something	If you just bear with me for a few more minutes, we'll have all the paperwork finished.
Turn to (good) account	turn something to one's advantage.	Pam turned her illness to good account and did a lot of reading.
To beat the air/(wind)	continue to make futile attempts	The candidates for office were so much alike that we thought our vote amounted to beating the air.
To break a lance	to engage in contest	He was eager to break a lance with the new champion.
To (fall) foul of	to upset someone	Officials who fall foul of the mayor find themselves exiled to the most boring departments
To keep open house	to be hospitable	Beth and Charlie have a cottage by the lake where they keep open house on Saturday afternoons during the summer.
To put out of countenance	cause mental discomfort, to abash	He was put out of countenance when a friend disclosed his secret.
Got up/(dressed) to kill	dressed in an attractive manner	The model got up to kill but the judges looked indifferent.
To have a finger in the pie	to be involved in something	Tess wants to have a finger in the pie. She doesn't think we can do it by ourselves.
When all is said and done	when everything is considered	When all is said and done, this isn't such a bad part of the country to live in after all.
An axe to grind (there is also an American version of this idiom which is not relevant)	to have something to complain about	Bill and Bob went into the other room to argue. They had an axe to grind.
Turn (over) a new leaf	to start behaving in a different way	Apparently he's turned over a new leaf and he's not drinking any more.
Burn the candle at both ends	to work very hard	You'll wear out if you keep burning the candle at both ends.
Leave in the lurch	to leave someone waiting for or anticipating your actions	I hope they can find someone to replace me at work. I don't want to leave them in the lurch.
Goes without saying	something is so obvious that it need not be said	It goes without saying that you are to wear formal clothing to the White House dinner.
Like a red rag to a bull	to make someone very angry	For Claire, the suggestion of a women-only committee was like a red rag to a bull.
Not (have) a leg to stand on	to have no support for one's position	The company settled the lawsuit because they did not have a leg to stand on.
Under the thumb of	under the control of someone	That girl is totally under the thumb of her mother.
The writing on the wall	the likelihood that something bad will happen	As leaders, they should have seen the writing on the wall and come up with an alternative course of action.
To fall back on something	to depend on something after a loss or failure	The impoverished family had no savings to fall back on.
To fall through	to fail	Our plans fell through at the last minute.
On right earnest		
Vested interests	those groups that seek to maintain or control an existing system or activity from which they derive private benefit.	America can never extricate herself from the current perpetual state of war because of the vested interests of the Military Industrial Complex.
Meaningful dialogue	a frank conversation about the tough issues	A meaningful dialogue between Pakistan and India might bring about the belated solution to the Kashmir problem.
To sow one's wild oats	to spend a period of one's youth behaving irresponsibly	He'd spent his twenties sowing his wild oats but felt that it was time to settle down.
Storm in a tea cup	a small event that has been exaggerated out of proportion	I wonder what will you do in a more serious situation when you are making a storm in a teacup because of just a finger prick?
To keep late hours	to stay up or stay out until very late at night.	If I didn't keep late hours, I wouldn't sleep so late in the morning.
To throw cold water on	to criticize or stop something that some people are enthusiastic about	The proposal seemed reasonable enough, but authorities quickly threw cold water on it.
A cock and bull story	an absurd or highly improbable tale passed off as being true.	Jack told us some cock and bull story about getting lost.
To bear the brunt of	to receive the worst part of something unpleasant or harmful	The oldest parts of the town bore the brunt of the missile attacks.
Tied to apron-strings of	dependent on or dominated by someone, especially a mother or a wife	At 30, he is still too tied to the apron strings of his mother to get an apartment of his own.

English Précis and Composition Past Papers

To move heaven and earth	to do everything you can to achieve something	I moved heaven and earth to get you that interview, and you didn't even bother to show up for it!
To blow one's own trumpet	to tell other people how good and successful you are	Anyone will tell you she's one of the best journalists we've got, although she'd never blow her own trumpet.
To rest on one's laurels	relax one's efforts	The government shouldn't rest on its laurels, and must press ahead with policy changes.
Trudge along	to walk in a laborious, heavy-footed way	We trudged along the mountain trail with much difficulty.
Point-blank(varying definitions)	with a straight aim; directly	The landlord fired point-blank at the intruder.
In the doldrums	sluggish; inactive; in low spirits	When the economy is in the doldrums, every business feels the effects.
Dole out	to distribute something to someone	The cook doled the oatmeal out to each camper who held out a bowl.
At cross purposes	with opposing viewpoints; with goals that interfere with each other	Bill and Tom are working at cross-purposes. They'll never get the job done right.
Cheek by jowl	in close proximity	The houses were jumbled together cheek by jowl.
Succinctly	with concise and precise brevity; to the point	It is hard to explain the Palestinian issue succinctly.
(Hilarious) detract from	to make something seem less good, attractive, or important	Although the Mayor's hilarious detract from the party line amused the audience, his colleagues looked surprised.
Plain sailing	easy unobstructed progress	We had difficulty getting through the initial stage but the rest was plain sailing.
To call a spade a spade	to be outspoken, blunt, even to the point of rudeness	You can call him a nice guy if you want to but I am calling a spade a spade; that guy is a jerk.
To fight shy of	to avoid meeting or confronting	Politicians usually fight shy of their voters after coming into office.
To cry over the spilt milk	to be unhappy about what cannot be undone	Don't cry over the spilt milk.
To rob peter to pay Paul	to take or borrow from one in order to give or pay something owed to another.	Why borrow money to pay your bills? That's just robbing Peter to pay Paul.
To take the bull by the horns	face a difficulty and grapple with it without avoiding it	Stop blaming the government for your problems, take the bull by the horns and rectify your own mistakes.
Playing to the gallery	to try to gain popular favour, esp by crude appeals	A team marred with players prone to playing to the gallery can never elevate its status.
Holding out the olive branch	to offer reconciliation	Jill was the first to hold out the olive branch after our argument.
To make out	to discern or see, especially with difficulty	I could barely make out the traffic signs through the rain.
The acid test	a rigorous and conclusive test to establish worth or value	The play passed the critic's acid test.
A bad hat	someone who deliberately stirs up trouble	You will hardly find bad hats among diplomats.
In a blue funk	in a state of panic or terror	Just because the bride's mother is late, you needn't get in a blue funk.
(Set one's cap) (Down at heel) (I think these are two different idioms)	(try to gain someone's love) (badly dressed or in a bad condition because of a lack of money)	(It's fairly obvious from the way he talks to her at every opportunity that he's set his cap at her.) (When I first met her she was down-at-heel but still respectable.)
To die in harness	to die while actively engaged in work or duty.	She knows she'll never get promoted, but she wants to die in harness.
Dead as doornail	unquestionably dead	The radicalism she professed in her adolescence is now dead as a doornail.
To raise coin(It could be 'cain' which will make it a different idiom)	to gather money	Bush was to raise coin for McCain at the Phoenix Convention Centre.
To strike one's colours	surrender	Even after getting half of the crew killed, the Admiral defiantly refused to strike his colours.
To carry the day	to be victorious	At auctions, the wealthiest bidders usually carry the day.
Taken down a peg	to reprimand someone who is acting too arrogant.	The teacher's scolding took Bob down a peg.
To monkey with	to bother or interfere with someone or something	Come on, don't monkey with my new camera.
In hot water	in a difficult situation in which you are likely to be punished	Those e-mails complaining about your boss can land you in hot water.
Petticoat Government	women running government or domestic affairs.	At the outset of Akbar's reign, the Mughal Empire was essentially being run by a petticoat government.
To pull oneself together	to compose oneself	I have to pull myself together and try it again.
To rise from the ranks	to achieve position or office, having worked up from the masses	He rose from the ranks to become president of the company.
To rub shoulders	to meet or be with someone socially	The receptions offered a chance for business people to rub shoulders with business people from other countries.
Pocket the affront/(an insult)	to receive an affront without open resentment, or without seeking redress	Beggars are used to pocketing the affronts of the people.
Thin end of the wedge	the start of a harmful development	There are those who see the closure of the hospital as the thin end of the wedge.

English Précis and Composition Past Papers

Flash in the pan	someone or something that draws a lot of attention for a very brief time	Tom had hoped to be a major film star, but his career was only a flash in the pan.
To keep at a respectful distance		
At one's beck and call	ready to obey someone	What makes you think I will wait around here at your beck and call?
Go against the grain	to do something that is the opposite of what is usually done	It goes against the grain for William to admit that he's wrong.
Bring grist to the mill	something that you can use in order to help you to succeed	As an actor, all experience is grist to the mill.
Upset the apple-cart	to cause trouble, especially by spoiling someone's plans	I don't want to upset the apple-cart now by asking you to change the date for the meeting.
Hoist on one's own petard	to be harmed by something that was intended by you to harm someone else	The most enjoyable moment in any action film occurs when the villain is hoisted on his own petard.
Live on the fat of the land	to have enough money to live in a very comfortable way without having to do much work	Times have changed for the upper classes, many of whom are no longer able to live on the fat of the land.
To have your cake and eat it too	to seek to have two things which are mutually incompatible	Don't buy a car if you want to walk and stay healthy. You can't have your cake and eat it too.
Between the devil and the deep blue sea	one must choose between two equally unpleasant situations	For most people a visit to the dentist is the result of a choice between the devil and the deep blue sea.
To be on the carpet	to be under consideration	The welfare proposal is on the carpet but the final decision will take some time.
It never rains but it pours	good (or bad) things do not just happen a few at a time, but in large numbers all at once.	First of all it was the car breaking down, then the fire in the kitchen and now Mike's accident. It never rains but it pours!
A miss is as good as a mile	a failure remains a failure, regardless of how close to success one has actually come.	I've tried to reassure him that he only failed by three percent but the way he sees it, a miss is as good as a mile.
To give oneself airs	behave snobbishly	She can give herself all the airs she wants, but the fact remains that she's no different from the rest of us.
To have the courage of one's convictions	moral convictions which are strong enough to motivate one to act on them	He's always telling me about his socialist views on this and that, but there's very little evidence in the way he conducts his life to suggest that he's got the courage of his convictions.
The onlooker sees most of the game	people viewing a situation from the outside, when they're not directly involved, are better able to see the "bigger picture" of what is actually happening.	
Out of sight out of mind	if you do not see someone or something frequently, you will forget about it	You'll soon forget about him after he leaves - out of sight, out of mind.
To come to a dead end	to have run out of possible ideas, solutions, energy, etc	The committee reached a dead end on the matter and tabled the whole business.
To turn a deaf ear	to ignore what someone says	How can you just turn a deaf ear to their cries for food and shelter?
Every dark cloud has a silver lining	there is something good even in an unpleasant situation	I'm sorry your business is going badly, but don't despair, every dark cloud has a silver lining.
Blowing hot and cold together	change one's mind, vacillate	Jean's been blowing hot and cold about taking a winter vacation.
To let the cat out of the bag	to reveal a secret or a surprise by accident	I was trying to keep the party a secret, but Jim went and let the cat out of the bag.
To put the cart before the horse	to have things in the wrong order; to have things confused and mixed up	You're eating your dessert first! You've put the cart before the horse.
(To sail) in the same boat	in the same situation; having the same problem	Suddenly, Paul was in the same boat as any other worker who had lost a job.
A Swan Song	the last work or performance of a playwright, musician, actor, etc., before death or retirement	We didn't know that her performance last night was the singer's swan song.
To look a gift horse in the mouth	to be ungrateful to someone who gave you something	I know the car's not in great condition, but you shouldn't look a gift horse in the mouth.
To wash one's dirty linen in public	to discuss private or embarrassing matters in public, especially when quarrelling.	She will talk to anyone about her problems. Why does she wash her dirty linen in public?
To take to one's heels	to run away	The little boy said hello and then took to his heels.
To win laurels	to get accolades, honour	Jim is a hard working boy, he is sure to win laurels in life.
Ab initio	from the beginning	They do more advanced work with their students ab initio.
Bonafide	authentic; genuine; undertaken in good faith	They have a bonafide claim for the loss.
En bloc	as a unit; all together	I have been drawing our attention to the public and private qualities of the several arts lest they be treated en bloc
Ex parte	from or on one side only, with the other side absent or unrepresented	A judge prone to ex parte hearing is not worthy of such an auspicious office.

English Précis and Composition Past Papers

Sine die	without a day specified for a future meeting; indefinitely	Parliament was dismissed sine die.
Status quo	the existing condition or state of affairs.	A revolution which does not challenge status quo can hardly justify its existence.
Ad Valorem	in proportion to the value	Extremely high import duties on cars in Pakistan are inconsistent with the ad valorem principles of trade.
Alter ego	another side of oneself; a second self	The Nazi party's incipient slogans for socialism were soon replaced by puritanical racial exultations. An alter ego which culminated in the annihilation of six million Jews.
By and by	at some eventual time in the future	Perhaps by-and-by Pakistan will stand shoulder to shoulder with developed world.
The lion's share	the biggest part of something	The lion's share of the museum's budget goes on special exhibitions.
In black and white	official, in writing or printing	I have it in black and white that I'm entitled to three weeks of vacation each year.
To bring to book	to punish someone	A crime has been committed and whoever is responsible must be brought to book.
To read between the lines	to perceive or detect an obscure or unexpressed meaning	I slowly learned to read between the lines of corporate annual reports to discern areas of fiscal weakness.
To stick to one's guns	to remain firm in one's convictions	I'll stick to my guns on this matter.
To be under a cloud	under suspicion	Ever since his brother was accused of fraud, he's been under a cloud.
By fits and starts	intermittently	He worked on his book by fits and starts.
Prima facie	at first sight; before closer inspection	They had, prima facie, a legitimate complaint.
Ex post facto	affecting things past	Article 12 of Pakistan constitution prohibits the passing ex post facto laws.
Fait accompli	something already done and beyond alteration	By the time we learned about the decision, it was already a fait accompli.
Vis-à-vis	in relation to	American foreign policy is ironically contradictory vis-a-vis her vehement support for multilateralism
Modus operandi	a method of operating or functioning	The modus operandi in the recent murder points towards a serial killer at large.
Aide mémoire	a memorandum summarizing a discussion, agreement, or action	
Laissez faire	the principle that businesses should not be controlled by the government	The previous government had a policy of laissez-faire, whereas this government wants a closer partnership with industry.
Au revoir	goodbye	Muhammad (pbuh) bade au revoir to Makkah when Quraish made his stay unbearable.
To back out	to withdraw from something before completion	Americans ignominiously backed out of Vietnam.
To keep out of	to avoid or cause to avoid	The boss is in an angry mood, so keep out of her way.
Bang into	to strike someone or something with something	Mark banged his fist into the cushion and swore.
To smell a rat	to suspect that something is wrong	Mir Jafir's collusion with the Company was so secret that Tipu Sultan never smelled a rat.
To burn one's fingers	to have a bad result from something, esp. to lose money	Many investors burned their fingers on those stocks.
Null and void	having no legal effect	The court declared the law to be null and void.
To catch up with	to become equal or on a par with another	He has finally caught up with his brother in height.
To stand up for	to defend; to justify; to support	Abu Bakar would always stand up for Muhammad (pbuh) in difficulties.
To skim through	to go through something hastily	She skimmed through the catalogues, looking for a nice gift for Gary.
To narrow down	to reduce a list of possibilities from many to a selected few	We can narrow the choice down to green or red.
As cool as a cucumber	extremely calm; imperturbable	Joan felt nervous, but she acted as cool as a cucumber.
In a Pickle	in a mess; in trouble	John has gotten himself into a pickle by hitting a police officer.
Take a/(the) cake	something is the most extreme example	I've known some jerks but you take the cake.
Sell like hotcakes	to be sold very fast.	The fancy new cars were selling like hotcakes.
As flat as a Pancake	to be very flat	Lucy can mash an aluminium can flat as a pancake with one blow from her heel.
Take something with a grain of salt	to consider something to be not completely true or right	I've read the article, which I take with a grain of salt.
Like two peas in a pod	to be very similar	You can tell they're brothers at a glance - they're like two peas in a pod.
Account for	to know the state of or whereabouts of someone or something	They cannot account for three of the passengers.
Carry weight	to be very influential with someone or some group of people	The senator's testimony carried a lot of weight with the council.
To fall back upon	have recourse to	When he lost his job he had to fall back upon his savings.

English Précis and Composition Past Papers

To be taken aback	surprised and confused	When I told my parents I was married, they were completely taken aback.
A wild goose chase	the pursuit of something unattainable	The alchemists strived hard to turn ordinary metals into gold but it ultimately proved to be a wild goose chase.
By leaps and bounds	very quickly	The possession of muskets spread the Western hegemony over Natives by leaps and bounds.
To burn midnight oil	to work or study very late at night	He was burning the midnight oil all night to finish his paper.
White elephant	something that has cost a lot of money but has no useful purpose	The town's new leisure centre, recently completed at a cost of ten million pounds, seems likely to prove a white elephant.
Blue Blood	aristocratic ancestry	Although Mary's family is poor, she has blue blood in her veins.
Cleanse the Aegean stable	purge a situation, etc. of corruption, immorality, etc	Tax legislation is a complete mess, and one day someone is going to have to cleanse this Augean stable – not a job many governments will relish.
Apple of discord	something attractive that causes envy and quarrels among people who think they deserve it	The right to host the Olympic Games is an apple of discord between the two countries.
In good books	regarded by someone with favour	I cleaned the bathroom yesterday so I'm in Mum's good books.
Stare in the face	to confront someone directly	Finally, the truth stared me in the face, and I had to admit to myself what had really happened.
Make off with	to snatch or steal	The robbers made off with millions from the bank.
Damocles' sword	constant threat; imminent peril	The double digit inflation is overhanging Pakistan's economy like the Damocles' sword.
Every inch	in every way; completely	Jinnah was every inch a model statesman.
On the sky/ (pie in the sky)	false optimism	Our leaders need to offer more than pie in the sky when they talk about political and social issues.
Palm off	to trick or persuade someone to take something	They palmed off cheap wine at high prices by putting it in fancy bottles.
Lip service	hypocritical respect	Lip service continues to be paid to resolving regional conflicts, but there is no sense of urgency
A turncoat	one who traitorously switches allegiance	His one-time admirers now accused him of being a turncoat.
Time and tide(wait for no man)	things will not wait for you when you are late	Hurry up or we'll miss the bus! Time and tide wait for no man.
Over head and ears	with the whole person; deeply; completely	He's over head and ears in love with Kitty.
To live from hand to mouth	to live in poor circumstances.	When both my parents were out of work, we lived from hand to mouth.
To beat about the bush	to approach anything in a round-about manner, instead of coming directly to it	Politicians are often inclined to beating about the bush in their speeches.
To fish in troubled waters	to try to take advantage of a confused situation	Anarchy gives room to criminals to fish in troubled waters.
A bird's eye-view	a situation or topic as if viewed from an altitude or distance	A successful general always keeps a vantage point to keep birds eye view of the battlefield.
Play truant	to stray away; to loiter; especially, to stay out of school without leave	Now in old age he is angry that he played truant and never learnt to read.
Play down	to minimize the importance of	The commander played down the defeat to protect his troops' morale.
Turn turtle	to capsize or turn upside-down	Our sail-boat turned turtle during the squall.
Turn the corner	to reach and surpass a midpoint or milestone	After a difficult start, the new company turned corner after a year and became profitable.
A fair weather friend	someone who is only your friend when you are happy and successful	I had a lot of money and I knew a lot of people, but most of them turned out to be fair-weather friends.
Burn one's boats	to do something that makes it impossible for you to change your plans and go back to the situation you were in before	She didn't want to burn her boats by asking for a divorce, so she suggested a trial separation instead.
Horse-trading	negotiation characterized by hard bargaining and shrewd exchange	Horse-trading is part and parcel of international diplomacy.
Between Scylla and Charybdis	in a position where avoidance of one danger exposes one to another danger	
Hobson's choice	an apparently free choice that offers no real alternative	Elections in Egypt for the past thirty years can be summed up as Honson's choice.
Sting in the tail	an unpleasant end to something that began pleasantly	At the start, it's humorous and light but like most of her short stories, there's a sting in the tail.
With open arms	with happiness or enthusiasm	After suing the organization, I know I'm not going to be greeted with open arms.
Wash one's hand of	to disclaim or renounce interest in, or responsibility for, a person or action	I wash my hands of your behaviour. It was disgraceful.
Count one's chickens	plan something which unwisely anticipates an event, development, etc. which may not happen	We need concentrated effort to eradicate the present problems, planning for the next 10 years is counting one chicken's too far ahead.
Bear out	to prove right or justified; confirm	The test results bear out our claims.

English Précis and Composition Past Papers

Carry over	to persist to another time or situation	The confidence gained in remedial classes carried over into the children's regular school work.
Come off	to acquit oneself	She is sure to come off badly if challenged to explain.
Fall back	to recede	The waves fell back.
Figure out	to solve or decipher	Can you figure out this puzzle?
Learn to live with	to learn to adapt to something unpleasant or painful	Finally the doctor told Marion that she was going to have to learn to live with her arthritis.
Set in	to begin	If the wound is not treated, infection may set in.
Cover up	to conceal a wrongdoing; to conceal evidence	They tried to cover the crime up, but the single footprint gave them away.
Iron out	work out , resolve	The two sides need to keep talking until they iron out their differences.
To beggar description	to defy description; to be unable to be described	The house was a horrible mess. The place beggared description.
To bring to mind	to cause you to think of someone or something	Something about his face brings to mind an old friend of mine.
To call in question	to cause a feeling of doubt about something	The report's findings call into question the safety and effectiveness of all such drugs.
To cap it all	something that you say when you want to tell someone the worst event in a series of bad events that has happened to you	He spilled red wine on the carpet, insulted my mother, and, to cap it all, he broke my favourite vase.
To clip one's wings	to restrain someone; to reduce or put an end to someone's privileges.	You had better learn to get home on time, or I will clip your wings.
To cross the Rubicon	to do something that inevitably commits one to follow a certain course of action.	Find another job before you cross the Rubicon and resign from this one.
To feel the pulse	to judge the mood or views of	The politician was able to feel the pulse of the grass-roots voters.
To fly in the face of	go against	This action flies in the face of the agreement
To rise like a phoenix from its ashes	to resume an endeavour after an apparently final defeat.	Napoleon rose like a phoenix from its ashes from Elba and almost clinched a victory at the Battle of Waterloo.
The last ditch	made or done as a last desperate attempt or effort in the face of opposition	Even the last ditch attempts could not avert the civil war.
A square meal	a big meal that provides your body with all the different types of food it needs to stay healthy	Most of these supermodels don't look like they've had a square meal in their life.
Go public	to reveal something to the public	Just let me know when we can go public with this press release.
Run riot	let loose, cause an uproar, run wild etc	My imagination was running riot, thinking of all the ways that I could spend the money.
The back room boys	any private group of men who make decisions	The back room boys picked the last presidential candidate.
Foot the bill	to pay for something	My boss took me out for lunch and the company footed the bill.
Set the pace	to do something that establishes a standard	For many years this company has set the pace in the communications industry.
At times	sometimes; occasionally	At times, I wish I had never come here.
Steal the show	to get all the attention and praise at an event or performance	All the singers were good, but 16-year-old Karine stole the show.
Grey matter	one's intelligence	It's an entertaining film but it doesn't exactly stimulate the old grey matter.
A jaundiced eye	a prejudiced view	Soldiers are notorious for keeping a jaundiced eye for civilians.
A left-handed compliment	an insult that is disguised as a compliment.	She said she liked my hair, but it turned out to be a left-handed compliment when she asked how long I'd been dyeing it.
The ruling passion	an interest or concern that occupies a large part of someone's time and effort	Although a successful entrepreneur, hunting was Jack's ruling passion.
Tower of strength	a person who can always be depended on to provide support and encouragement, especially in times of trouble	Jack was a tower of strength during the time that his father was unemployed.
Steal a march on someone	to precede someone who has the same goal; to accomplish something before someone else does	Our competitor stole a march on us and got the big contract.
In one's bones	have an intuition	Some sixth sense was telling him that something was amiss, and he felt it in his bones that he'd better investigate.
Hang in the balance	to depend on something for success or continued existence	With thousands of jobs hanging in the balance, there's a lot of competition to attract new factories.
Fly in the ointment	a small, unpleasant matter that spoils something	We enjoyed the play, but the fly in the ointment was not being able to find my hat afterwards.
Close-fisted	very careful with money; mean	Ever increasing prices of market goods have forced even the impoverished to be close-fisted.
Blow one's top	fly into a rage	If she calls about this one more time I'm going to blow my top.

English Précis and Composition Past Papers

Find one's feet	to grow in confidence in a new situation as one gains experience.	If you ask for help when you need it, you will soon find your feet.
Call it a night	to end what one is doing at night and go [home] to bed	Guest after guest called it a night, and at last we were alone.
Tip of the iceberg	only the part of something that can be easily observed, but not the rest of it, which is hidden	The problems that you see here now are just the tip of the iceberg.
Below par	not as good as average or normal.	His work is below par, and he is paid too much money.
From pillar to post	from one place to a series of other places	My father was in the army, and we moved from pillar to post year after year.
Hang up one's hat	to leave your job for ever	When I stop enjoying my work, that'll be the time to hang up my hat.
Turn someone in	to hand someone in to police	Tell me the truth about the robbery or I will turn you in!
Turn someone on	to attack or oppose someone or something, especially the person or group in charge.	I never thought that my own dog would turn on me!
Turn someone off	to dull someone's interest in someone or something.	The boring teacher turned me off to the subject.
The teeming meanings	numerous meanings	The teeming meanings of artificial intelligence shows the diversity of this field.
To kick the bucket	to die	After a week in ICU, Jack finally kicked the bucket.
To push to the walls	to force someone into a position where there is only one choice to make	There was little else I could do. They pushed me to the wall.
To be at daggers drawn	ready to fight or argue	Local residents are at daggers drawn with the council over rubbish collection.
To throw down the gauntlet	to offer or send a challenge	Frowning at Bob is the same as throwing down the gauntlet. He loves to get into a fight about something.
To be a Greek	beyond one's comprehension	The speaker's gibberish was a Greek to me.
To stand on ceremony	to hold rigidly to protocol or formal manners	We are very informal around here. Hardly anyone stands on ceremony.
From the horse's mouth	from an authoritative or dependable source	This comes straight from the horse's mouth, so it has to be believed.
To carry the cross	carry one own's burdens, problems	Parents keep carrying their crosses while their children hardly get a hint.
Bolt from the blue	a sudden surprise	Joe's return to Springfield was a bolt from the blue.
Put your foot down	to assert something strongly	The boss put her foot down and refused to accept any more changes to the plan.
Worth your salt	to be effective and efficient; deserving of one's pay.	We decided that you are worth your salt, and you can stay on as office clerk.
Down the drain	wasted or lost	I'm scared I'm going to be out of a job, and my 12 years of experience will be down the drain.
(calling)All cars	a desperate plea for help to everyone	
in a nutshell	in a few words; concisely	Just give me the facts in a nutshell.
Give me five	something that you say when you want someone to hit your open hand with theirs, in order to greet them or to show how pleased you are	Hi there little buddy, give me five!
To draw the long bow	lie, exaggerate or make an unwarranted assumption	
To send a person to Coventry	to shut out from social intercourse	The other workers sent him to Coventry for not supporting the strike.
Beer and skittles	informal enjoyment or pleasure	Life isn't all beer and skittles.
A skeleton in the cupboard	an embarrassing secret	If you want to be a successful politician, you can't afford to have too many skeletons in your cupboard.
To discover a mare's nest	a very confused situation	As he dug deeper into the bibliography of the book, he discovered it to be just a mare's nest.
Throw someone for a loop	to upset someone unexpectedly and severely	Seeing an accident on the road always throws me for a loop.
Letter-perfect	correct to the last detail, especially being in or following the exact words	She was letter-perfect in her part as Juliet.
Off the wall	strange or very different	Even though many people thought he was off the wall, they also thought he had very interesting ideas.
Out to lunch	lacking good mental judgement	She's clearly an idiot, and even a five year old should be able to tell she's out to lunch.
Salt something away	keep in reserve, store, save	It's not easy paying a mortgage, raising a young child, and salting away enough money for your retirement.
Take someone to the cleaners	to cheat someone of money	Some people say the company took them to the cleaners by charging double for some services.
Wear the pants in the family	to be the person in charge in a marriage or family	She has the best-paid job and she also wears the pants in the family.
To put the lid on	to stop something from increasing	Diplomats hope to put a lid on rising tensions between the two countries.

English Précis and Composition Past Papers

Flavour of the mouth	suddenly but temporarily popular	This rap artist is pop music's current flavour of the month.
Zero hour	critical time, esp at the commencement of an action	The mission was aborted at zero hours.
Gloom and doom	the feeling that a situation is bad and is not likely to improve	There's been so much gloom and doom here, I think we should try to provide a smile.
To pig out	to eat a lot	Our kids dream of staying up late and pigging out on junk food.
Bag people	homeless people	I really miss having the bag people on every other block.
Compassion fatigue	the inability to react sympathetically to a crisis, disaster, etc because of overexposure to previous crises, disasters, etc	A few months into war , field doctors become highly susceptible to compassion fatigue.
No to mince matters	to speak unreservedly	Not to mince matters, I feel he should resign.
Hard and fast	defined, fixed, and invariable	There are no hard and fast rules in our local wrestling matches.
Weather the storm	survive a crisis, live through tough times	Pat lost his job and I had surgery, but we weathered the storm.
Meet halfway	to compromise with someone	I really want this relationship, Simon, and I'm prepared to work at it but you have to meet me halfway.
Where the shoe pinches	where the difficulty or trouble lies	Johnny thinks the job is easy, but he will find out where the shoe pinches when he tries it.
Make for	have or cause to have a particular effect; also, help promote or further	That letter of yours will make for hard feelings in the family.
Yeoman's service	exceptionally good, useful, or loyal service or assistance	Allama Iqbal's yeoman's service for Urdu poetry is still unsurpassed.
Discretion is the better part of valour	it is better to be careful and think before you act than it is to be brave and take risks	She decided not to voice her opposition to the Chairman's remarks. Perhaps discretion was the better part of valour.
Out of the wood	past a critical phase; out of the unknown	When the patient got out of the woods, everyone relaxed.
A casting vote	the deciding vote cast by the presiding officer to resolve a tie	The speaker used his casting vote in the favour of bill.
Look down upon	to consider someone or something as not important or of value	A lot of people look down upon homeless people.
Iconoclast	one who attacks and seeks to overthrow traditional or popular ideas or institutions.	The actions of the people during the fall of Communism were iconoclastic.
Twiddle with	to play with something	Someone is twiddling with the stereo controls.
Vamp up	make up, cook up, fabricate etc	
Whittle away	cut away in small pieces	The old horse was whittled away in the slaughterhouse.
Winkle out	force from a place or position	The committee winkled out the unqualified candidates
Give someone the bum's rush	the action of getting rid of someone who is not wanted	The photographer was given the bum's rush by two policemen guarding the office.
Loom large	to be of great importance, esp when referring to upcoming problem or threat	Eviction was looming large when the tenants could not pay their rent.
Besetting sin	a fault to which someone is especially prone, a characteristic weakness	
To hang fire	to hesitate, to hold back as if in suspense.	It would have been good to settle the matter now, but I think we should hang fire until the general situation becomes clearer.
Take to task	to scold or reprimand someone	The teacher took John to task for his bad behavior.
Take over	to assume control	She took over the job after he left.
Take off	to remove, to release	Take off your dirty shirt!
Take ill	to become sick	I hope I don't take ill before final exams.
Take for	to regard as	Do you take me for a fool?
Take after	to follow as an example or resemble in appearance, temperament, or character.	Most of my children take after my husband, both in appearance and character.
To eat one's words	to retract what one has said	John was wrong about the election and had to eat his words.
Dog in the manger	One who prevents others from enjoying what one has no use for oneself.	Don't be a dog in the manger and let your brother use the extra space in your cupboard.
A close shave	A narrow escape; a close call	The thieves slipped the Police cordon by a close shave.
A Freudian Slip	A verbal mistake that is thought to reveal a repressed belief, thought, or emotion	Amma cried with horror when Henry fell from the horse. A Freudian Slip hinting at her feelings for him.
A Gordian Knot	An exceedingly complicated problem or deadlock	The budget allocations became a Gordian Knot when the representatives couldn't reach an agreement.
A cog in the machine	one part of a large system or organization	He was just a small cog in the large wheel of organised crime.

English Précis and Composition Past Papers

A sugar daddy	A wealthy, usually older man who gives expensive gifts to a young person in return for sexual favours or companionship	Reputed as a sugar daddy, the candidate lost his bid to get elected.
A wet blanket	One that discourages enjoyment or enthusiasm.	Don't be a wet blanket and tell them about the theft. Let them enjoy the wedding today.

English Précis and Composition Past Papers

Pairs	meaning	Sentences
Consciousness Conscientiousness	an alert cognitive state in which you are aware of yourself and your situation ----- Guided by or in accordance with the dictates of conscience; principled	His political consciousness sprang from his upbringing. ----- He made a conscientious decision to speak out about injustice prevalent in his work place.
Ingenious Ingenuous	Marked by inventive skill and imagination ----- Lacking in cunning, guile, or worldliness; artless	He was ingenious at making up new games for the children. ----- He seemed too ingenuous for a reporter.
Fantastic Fanatical	Wonderful or superb; remarkable ----- existing in fancy only	I have a fantastic social life. ----- The candidate's fantastical promises did not help to garner more votes.
Honourable Honorary	possessing or characterized by high principles ----- given as an honour without the normal duties	I believe he was an honourable man. ----- He was made an honorary member of the Golf Club.
Politician Statesman	One who holds or seeks a political office ----- A political leader regarded as a disinterested promoter of the public good	Zardari ,an astute politician, is the president of Pakistan. ----- Jinnah was a true statesman who changed the course of Muslim history in the subcontinent.
Grateful Gratified	Appreciative of benefits received; thankful ----- To please or satisfy	She was grateful to him for all his help. ----- I was gratified at the response to my letter.
Imaginary Imaginative	existing in the imagination; unreal; illusory ----- Having a lively imagination, especially a creative imagination	Lots of children have imaginary friends. ----- He is imaginative because he always is coming up with interesting ideas.
Negligent Negligible	Characterized by or inclined to neglect, especially habitually ----- Not significant or important enough to be worth considering; trifling	He responded with a negligent wave. ----- Managers are convinced that the strike will have a negligible effect.
Placable Placeable	Easily calmed or pacified; tolerant ----- capable of being recognized	Palacable attitude of parents can potentially spoil their children. ----- A home with pets must have placeable signs at all entrances.
Restive Restless	Uneasily impatient under restriction, opposition, criticism, or delay ----- worried; anxious; uneasy	The government has done nothing to ease export restrictions, and domestic manufacturers are growing restive ----- The atmosphere in the office was congenial, but after five years I began to grow restless.
Amiable Amicable	Friendly and agreeable in disposition ----- Characterized by or exhibiting friendliness or goodwill (one is used for a person and the other for peaceful settlements or agreements)	She had been surprised at how amiable and polite he had seemed. ----- The dispute was finally settled in a very amicable manner.
Considerable Considerate	large or relatively large in number or amount or extent or degree ----- showing concern for the rights and feelings of others	We have already spent a considerable amount of money on repairs. ----- He stayed at home out of consideration for his mother.
Momentary Momentous	lasting for a markedly brief time ----- Of utmost importance; of outstanding significance or consequence	A pilot's momentary lapse in concentration can jeopardize the life of all the passengers. ----- However much the president delayed the momentous decision to send in the troops, the time had arrived.
Virtuous Virtual	characterized by or possessing virtue or moral excellence ----- being actually such in almost every respect	The president is portrayed as a virtuous family man. ----- He was a virtual prisoner in his own home.
Par At a par	an accepted level or standard, such as an average ----- a state of equality	Their performance was way above par for an amateur production. ----- Some parts of Chicago are at par with New York City in crime.
Complacent Complaisant	pleased or satisfied ----- showing a desire to comply or oblige	He had become complacent after years of success. ----- The woman was so complaisant that she was unable to deny a single request.
State Government	the territory occupied by a nation ----- The agency or apparatus through which a governing individual or body functions and exercises authority.	The Government has insisted that confidence is needed before the economy can improve. ----- Robust state security is indispensable to the sovereignty of any nation.
Eminent Prominent	Outstanding, as in character or performance; distinguished ----- noticeable; easily seen	Your father was the most eminent of historians among his peers. ----- Lighthouses are still a prominent feature of the Scottish coast.
Below Beneath	less than in quantity or degree ----- below, esp if covered, protected, or obscured by	Today the temperature is below 10 degree centigrade.. ----- The bed-sheet is beneath the blanket.
Portly Comely	Comfortably stout; corpulent ----- Pleasing and wholesome in appearance; attractive	The portly man was having difficulty climbing out of the small car. ----- She was a large, comely girl with a mass of dark brown hair.
Set-up Set upon	To put (someone else) into a compromising situation by deceit or trickery ----- to attack someone or something violently	John isn't the one who started the fight. Somebody set up the poor guy. ----- The dogs set upon the bear and chased it up a tree.
Shall Will		An average of 40 percent shall be deemed a pass at Honours level.
Sink Drown	To descend to the bottom; submerge ----- to die or kill by immersion in liquid	Kate laughed, and sank down again to her seat. ----- He drowned during a storm.
Altar Alter	the table in Christian churches where communion is given ----- To change or make different; modify	The bride and groom stood before the priest at the altar. ----- Little had altered in the village.

English Précis and Composition Past Papers

Apposite Opposite	Strikingly appropriate and relevant ----- Altogether different, as in nature, quality, or significance	Recent events have made his central theme even more apposite. ----- The effect of the medication was opposite to that intended.
Confident Confidant	marked by assurance, as of success ----- one to whom secrets or private matters are disclosed.	I am confident that everything will come out right in time. ----- You are her closest friend and confidant.
Disease Decease	an impairment of health or a condition of abnormal functioning ----- to die	She is suffering from kidney disease. ----- He had a twin sister called Phyllis who sadly deceased.
Gate Gait	an opening in a wall or fence for entrance or exit ----- a particular way or manner of moving on foot	The entrance to the rear lawn was also gated. ----- His clumsy gait was quite obvious.
Yoke Yolk	an immense oppressive force or burden ----- the yellow spherical part of an egg that is surrounded by the albumen	Fourteenth century Russia was under the yoke of the Tatars. ----- The child will only eat the yolk of an egg – she won't eat the white.
Acculturate Acclimatize	to assimilate the cultural traits of another group ----- to adapt (oneself), especially to environmental or climatic changes	An internee who fails to acculturate on job is not worth his salt. ----- It took him several months to become acclimatized to the heat.
Career Carrier	a chosen pursuit; a profession or occupation ----- one that transports or conveys	She is now concentrating on a career as a fashion designer. ----- Mosquitoes are carriers of malaria.
Cease Seize	to put an end to; discontinue ----- to take possession of by force or at will	The factory ceased production. ----- The admiral seized the abandoned enemy ships.
Layout Outlay	an arrangement or a plan, especially the schematic arrangement of parts or areas ----- an expenditure of money, effort, etc.	The investor are still not satisfied with the layout of the new factory. ----- Disproportional outlays for the military have a history of proving fatal for the government.
Precede Proceed	to come, exist, or occur before in time ----- to go forward or onward; continue	The new teacher always precedes her lecture with a funny anecdote. ----- We stopped for an hour to take rest and then proceeded to our destination.
Facilitate Felicitate	to make easy or easier ----- to offer congratulations to	We should encourage political agreements which facilitate civilians' safety. ----- We must felicitate our children for their hard work.
Outbreak Breakout	a sudden eruption; an outburst ----- a forceful emergence from a restrictive condition or situation; an escape from jail	This outbreak of flu is no worse than normal. ----- A breakout was meticulously executed by some clever prisoners while the guards were asleep.
Contemtable Contemptuous	worthy of contempt ----- felt contempt for	Hellman thought McCarthy's methods contemptible. ----- Hellman was contemptuous of McCarthy.
Rightful Righteous	having a just claim ----- just	I am the rightful owner of this house though my cousin lives here now. ----- The people of England were filled with a righteous indignation.
Immigrant Emigrant	one who enters and settles in a new country ----- one who leaves one's native country to settle in another	He immigrated to the United States from Russia. ----- He emigrated from Russia to the United States.
Superficial Superfluous	on the surface only, shallow, not thorough ----- extra, unnecessary, redundant	Tom had indeed been shot, but the wound was superficial. ----- Andrew's attempt to repair the light bulb was superfluous, since the light bulb had already been repaired.
President Precedent	one appointed or elected to preside over an organized body of people, such as an assembly or meeting ----- an act or instance that may be used as an example in dealing with subsequent similar instances	The White House says the president would veto the bill. ----- The President followed historical precedent in forming the Cabinet.
Judicial Judicious	having to do with judges, courts, or their functions ----- having or showing sound judgement; wise	A judicial matter may take months for court to decide upon. ----- Through judicious use of persuasion, I convinced my family to move to London.
Eligible Illegible	qualified or entitled to be chosen ----- difficult or impossible to read	He is eligible for promotion. ----- His handwriting is so illegible that no one can read it.
Deference Difference	courteous regard; respect ----- the quality or condition of being unlike or dissimilar.	Why does Pakistan has to pay deference to America in his foreign policy? ----- Differences of opinions in theology will never subside.
Eminent Imminent	outstanding, as in character or performance; distinguished ----- about to occur; impending	Allama Iqbal was an eminent poet of Urdu. ----- The black clouds meant that a storm was imminent.
Conspiracy Plot	an agreement to perform together an illegal, wrongful, or subversive act. ----- to make a plan, map, graph etc	There seems to be a conspiracy of silence about police brutality. ----- The navigator plotted the course of the ship.
Ignore Neglect	to refuse to pay attention to; disregard ----- to fail to care for or attend to properly	Don't ignore me! ----- The house was in a terrible state of neglect.
Adjourn Postpone	to suspend proceedings to another time or place. ----- to put off or delay until a future time	The court adjourned. ----- Don't postpone your application to graduate school or else it won't be considered.
Decay Spoil	to decline from a state of normality, excellence, or prosperity; deteriorate. ----- to cause damage to (something), in regard to its value, beauty, usefulness, etc	The house had fallen into a serious state of decay and disrepair. ----- She deliberately spoiled my dress.

English Précis and Composition Past Papers

Revolt Mutiny	to attempt to overthrow the authority of the state; rebel ----- refusal to obey one's senior officers in the navy or other armed services	Students were in revolt over administrative policies. ----- The sailors mutinied because they did not have enough food.
Uninterested Disinterested	not interested ----- impartial; unbiased	He was uninterested in Jill's hobby. ----- A good referee should be disinterested.
Opinion Judgement	a belief or conclusion held with confidence but not substantiated by positive knowledge or proof. ----- the capacity to assess situations or circumstances and draw sound conclusions; good sense	As men grow older, their opinions, like their diseases, grow chronic. ----- She showed good judgement in saving her money
Table Brand	up for discussion ----- to impress firmly; fix ineradicably	Her new offer is on the table. ----- Imagery of the war has branded itself into the national consciousness.
Weather Whether	the state of the atmosphere at a particular time and place ----- used to introduce alternative possibilities	Often, in freezing weather, the sodden roots can actually dislodge tiles. ----- We should find out whether the museum is open.
Right Rite	fitting, proper, or appropriate ----- any customary observance or practice	It is not right to leave the party without saying goodbye. ----- The people were all very glad to be able to perform some of the proper funeral rites.
Addict Edict	a person who has become dependent on something, especially drug ----- a formal or authoritative proclamation	He is addicted to alcohol. ----- What will be the future equivalent of nailing a new edict on a tree in the center of a village?
Conquer Concur	to overcome by physical, mental, or moral force ----- to be of the same opinion; agree	I really believe I have finally conquered this disorder. ----- These are fine words with which we may readily concur.
Cite Site	to quote as an authority or example ----- the place where a structure or group of structures was, is, or is to be located	The lawyer cited various sources to prove the veracity of his client. ----- This is a good site to build a hospital.
Ardour Order	feelings of great intensity and warmth; fervour ----- feelings of great intensity and warmth; fervour	They were imbued with a revolutionary ardour. ----- The escalator is in good working order.
Allusion Illusion	an indirect reference to a person, event, or thing ----- false impression	Without naming names, the candidate criticized the national leaders by allusion. ----- A pleasant illusion is better than harsh reality.
Exceptional Exceptionable	far beyond what is usual in magnitude or degree ----- liable to objection or debate	He had an exceptional memory. ----- His evidence was rejected by court under exceptional circumstances .
Virtual Virtuous	existing or resulting in essence or effect though not in actual fact, form, or name ----- characterized by or possessing virtue or moral excellence; righteous; upright	Nationalization of the industry will ensue a virtual destruction of the economy. ----- He led a virtuous life.
Voracity Veracity	having or marked by an insatiable appetite for an activity or pursuit; greedy ----- conformity to fact or truth; accuracy or precision	My brother's voracity for reading is unsurpassed in the family. ----- He was shocked to find his veracity being questioned.
Excite Incite	to arouse strong feeling in ----- to provoke and urge on	The proposal failed to excite our interest. ----- He incited his fellow citizens to take revenge.
Compliment Complement	an expression of praise, admiration, or congratulation. ----- something that completes, makes up a whole, or brings to perfection	Extend my compliments to your parents. -----Roses in a silver bowl complement the handsome cherry table.
Popular Populace	appealing to the general public; widely favoured or admired ----- the general public; the masses.	The dictator was overthrown by a popular uprising. ----- A large portion of the populace still lives under dire poverty.
Persecute Prosecute	to oppress or harass with ill-treatment ----- to initiate civil or criminal court action against.	Early Muslims were persecuted for their beliefs. ----- The police have decided not to prosecute him.
Mitigate Alleviate	to make or become less severe or harsh; moderate ----- to make an improvement by lessening	Quick and orderly response will mitigate the effects of flooding substantially. ----- A great deal can be done to alleviate back pain.
Berth Birth	a bed on a ship or train; usually in tiers ----- the emergence and separation of offspring from the body of the mother.	Golding booked a berth on the first boat he could. ----- She's just given birth to a baby girl.
Continual Continuous	frequently repeated ----- without interruption; ceaseless	By continual practice, she mastered Beethoven on piano. ----- The fire alarm made a continuous snarling whine.
Appraise Apprise	to evaluate, especially in an official capacity ----- to give notice to; inform	Many companies were prompted to appraise their recruitment policies. ----- Have the customers been fully apprised of the advantages?
Cast Caste	to give or deposit ----- social status or position conferred by a system based on class	I will cast my vote for the younger candidate. ----- Most of these people are from the socially-disadvantaged lower castes.
Canvas Canvass	an oil painting on canvas fabric ----- to examine carefully or discuss thoroughly; scrutinize	He painted twenty canvases. ----- The evidence had been repeatedly canvassed in American courts.
Expedient Expeditious	inclined towards methods or means that are advantageous rather than fair or just ----- acting or done with speed and efficiency	It might be expedient to keep this information to yourself. ----- The manager was very efficient and expeditious in the way he conducted business.

English Précis and Composition Past Papers

Counsel Council	Advice ----- An assembly of persons called together for consultation, deliberation, or discussion	He'll give you good counsel on your problems. ----- The city council has voted almost unanimously in favour of the proposal.
Collision Collusion	The act or process of colliding; a crash or conflict. ----- A secret agreement between two or more parties for a fraudulent, illegal, or deceitful purpose.	Their van was involved in a collision with a car. ----- He found no evidence of collusion between record companies and retailers.
Aspire Expire	To have a great ambition or ultimate goal; desire strongly ----- To come to an end; terminate	He aspired to the position of president. ----- My membership in the club has expired.
Antic Antique	A ludicrous or extravagant act or gesture ----- Belonging to, made in, or typical of an earlier period	We eagerly looked forward to his virtuoso playing with the Old Rope String Band and the crazy on-stage antics. ----- Their aim is to break taboos and change antique laws.
Artist Artisan	a person whose creative work shows sensitivity and imagination ----- A skilled manual worker; a crafts-person	You are an artist in the kitchen. ----- Most of our products are hand made by artisans, using local organic ingredients when possible.
Barbarism Barbarity	An act, trait, or custom characterized by ignorance or crudity ----- Savage brutality or cruelty in actions or conduct	There was a time when paganism meant barbarism and Christianity meant civilization. ----- Of course, war itself is a great barbarity, and all pacifists are bent upon its extermination.
Canon Cannon	Rule ----- A large mounted weapon that fires heavy projectiles	These measures offended all the accepted canons of political economy. ----- The rebels are using anti-aircraft guns, light cannon and heavy machine guns.
Cession Session	A ceding or surrendering, as of territory to another country by treaty ----- a meeting devoted to a particular activity	Opium wars saw the cession of Hong Kong and Kowloon to United Kingdom. ----- Ten players have failed drug tests following a training session.
Temporal Temporary	Of or relating to the material world; worldly ----- lasting for a limited period	Clergy should not be pre-occupied with temporal matters. ----- She was working as a temporary teacher at the school.
Bare Bear	Lacking the usual or appropriate covering or clothing ----- support or hold in a certain manner	She seemed unaware that she was bare. ----- The ice was not thick enough to bear the weight of marching men.
Wreck Wreak	something or someone that has suffered ruin or dilapidation ----- To bring about; cause	His life has been wrecked by the tragedy. ----- Violent storms wreaked havoc on the coast.
Humiliation Humility	state of disgrace or loss of self-respect ----- a disposition to be humble; modest	She faced the humiliation of discussing her husband's affair. ----- Despite his powerful position in the government, he was still a man of great humility.
Pour Pore	To cause to flow in a stream ----- to study with great attention	She poured the milk into a bowl. ----- He pored over the documents for several hours.
Casual Causal	happening by accident or chance ----- involving or constituting a cause	It was just a casual meeting. ----- Causal relationship between scarcity and higher prices is a universal phenomenon.
Beside Besides	At the side of; next to ----- in addition to	On the table beside an empty plate was a pile of books. ----- I think she has many good qualities besides being beautiful.
Official Officious	sanctioned by, recognized by, or derived from authority ----- intrusive in a meddling or offensive manner	An official announcement is expected later today. ----- An officious little security guard approached us.
Urban Urbane	of, consisting of, or living in, a city or town ----- Polite, refined, and often elegant in manner.	Urban life can get extremely hectic at times. ----- In conversation, he was suave and urbane.
Affection Affectation	A tender feeling toward another; fondness ----- a deliberate pretence or exaggerated display	She is very affectionate towards her mother. ----- He writes well, without fuss or affectation.
Conscious Conscientious	Mentally perceptive or alert; awake ----- characterized by extreme care and great effort	The patient remained fully conscious after the local anaesthetic was administered. ----- She is generally very conscientious about her work.
Premier Première	First in status or importance; principal or chief ----- The first public performance, as of a movie or play.	Swat is the premier tourist destination of Pakistan. ----- Titanic was premièred in almost all of the world simultaneously.
Resource Recourse	Something that can be used for support or help ----- One that is turned or applied to for aid or security	The local library is a valuable resource. ----- The public believes its only recourse is to take to the streets.
Ascent Accent	a movement upward ----- distinctive manner of oral expression	He pressed the button and the elevator began its slow ascent. ----- Even after living a decade in England, he still couldn't master English accent.
Access Excess	the opportunity or right to see or approach someone ----- more than; over	She asked for divorce and free access to her children. ----- The health club has a membership in excess of five thousand.
Wave Waive	the act of signalling by a movement of the hand ----- to set aside or relinquish	The protesters were waving banners and shouting. ----- He plead guilty to the charges and waived his right to appeal.
Flatter Flutter	praise somewhat dishonestly ----- To wave or flap rapidly in an irregular manner	I knew he was just flattering me. ----- It was silent except for the flags fluttering in the background.
Verbal Verbose	Expressed in spoken rather than written words; oral ----- Using or containing a great and usually an excessive number of words	We have a verbal agreement with our suppliers. When drunk, he becomes pompous and verbose.

English Précis and Composition Past Papers

Enviably Envious	So desirable as to arouse envy ----- showing extreme cupidity; painfully desirous of another's advantages	Enviably lifestyles of celebrities are often presented as holy grails to the masses without any moralistic considerations whatsoever. ----- I think she is envious of your success.
Fair Fare	Being in accordance with relative merit or significance ----- to get along	She wanted to receive her fair share of the proceeds. ----- How are you faring with your project?
Feet Feat	Plural of foot ----- an impressive act or achievement	He fell in the river when the plank under his feet broke. ----- Building the pyramids was a brilliant feat of engineering.
Conduct Character	To behave or manage ----- the inherent complex of attributes that determines a person's moral and ethical actions and reactions	She conducted herself stoically in her time of grief. ----- There is a side to his character which you haven't seen yet.
Differ Defer	To be of a different opinion; disagree ----- To put off; postpone	The critic differed with the author on several facts. ----- Customers often defer payment for as long as possible
Deface Efface	to spoil the appearance of ----- to rub out; to remove	The statue had been defaced with red paint. ----- You must try to efface the event from your memory.
Custom Habit	A practice followed by people of a particular group or region ----- done regularly	The custom of lighting the Olympic flame goes back centuries. ----- He took his habitual walk before bed.
Choice Preference	a supply from which to select ----- grant of favour or advantage to one over another	The car is available in a choice of colours. ----- Candidates with the right qualifications should be given preference.
Accident Incident	an unfortunate mishap; especially one causing damage or injury ----- an event or happening	She was involved in a serious car accident last week. ----- There was a strange incident in the supermarket today.
Prescribe Proscribe	to recommend or order the use of ----- To prohibit; forbid	Our doctor prescribed antibiotics for her throat infection. ----- They are proscribed by federal law from owning guns.
Peculiar Particular	strange or unusual; odd ----- unique or specific to a person or thing or category	He has a very peculiar sense of humour. ----- What particular aspects of the job are you interested in?
Rigorous Vigorous	characterized by or proceeding from rigour; harsh, strict, or severe ----- strong and active physically or mentally	Special military forces are notorious for their rigorous training. ----- He was a vigorous, lively boy.
Disclosure Exposure	the speech act of making something evident ----- the state of being vulnerable or exposed	The disclosure of his marriage proposal was badly-timed. ----- Exposure to lead is known to damage the brains of young children.
Willing Wilful	Disposed or inclined; prepared ----- intentional; done by design	I am willing to overlook your small mistakes. ----- Wilful neglect of the environment has reduced once huge forest tracts to barren lands.
Imperious Imperial	proud, behaving as if expecting to be obeyed ----- of or relating to an empire, emperor, or empress	She gave him a witheringly imperious look. ----- The imperial palace in Tokyo was spared from bombardment by the Allies in the Great War
Ordinance Ordnance	an authoritative regulation, decree, law, or practice ----- Military materiel, such as weapons, ammunition, combat vehicles, and equipment	Because of fiscal problems, however, the city never enforced the controversial ordinance. ----- The logistics of ensuring that the ordnance reach the front line was complicated but crucial to the progress of the war.
Medal Meddle	a small flat piece of metal bearing an inscription or image, given as an award or commemoration of some outstanding action, event, etc ----- To intrude into other people's affairs or business; interfere	He was awarded a medal for bravery in the war. ----- Do scientists have a right to meddle in these matters?
Maize Maze	tall annual cereal grass bearing kernels on large ears ----- complex system of paths or tunnels in which it is easy to get lost	Floods destroyed almost all the maize fields in the region. ----- I'm lost in a maze of rules and regulations.
Adverse Averse	in an opposing direction ----- having a dislike for	The decision would have no adverse effect on the investigation. ----- Investors who are averse to taking risks fail to take full advantage of the opportunities
Hew Hue	to cut out or shape with an axe, sword etc ----- a shade of a colour	He hewed a path through the forest. ----- His backyard was littered with flowers of many hues.
Ghostly Ghastly	resembling or characteristic of a phantom ----- shockingly repellent; inspiring horror	The moon shed a ghostly light on the fields. ----- The doctors tried very hard but the ghastly wounds of the patient proved fatal.
Naughty Knotty	Behaving disobediently or mischievously ----- highly complex or intricate and occasionally devious	You naughty boy, you gave me such a fright. ----- The new management team faces some knotty problems.
Observation Observance	a remark expressing careful consideration ----- conformity with law or custom or practice etc	This book contains observations about the nature of addiction. ----- Councils should ensure strict observance of laws.
Mean Mien	to denote or connote; signify; represent ----- Bearing or manner, especially as it reveals an inner state of mind	The red signal means that you can shoot. ----- He was a Vietnam veteran with a haunted mien.
Luxuriant Luxurious	produced or growing in extreme abundance ----- Fond of or given to luxury	wide spreading branches and luxuriant foliage, ----- She had come to enjoy this luxurious lifestyle.
Precipitate Precipitous	bring about abruptly ----- falling sharply	The killings in the city have precipitated the worst crisis yet. ----- The stock market's precipitous drop destroyed the investors' confidence.
Degrade Denigrate	to disgrace or make contemptible ----- to attack the reputation etc of	He felt degraded by having to ask for money. ----- I'm not trying to denigrate her achievement.

English Précis and Composition Past Papers

Amoral Immoral	Not admitting of moral distinctions or judgements; neither moral nor immoral ----- transgressing accepted moral rules; corrupt	The film was violent and amoral. ----- Drug dealing is the most immoral and evil of all human activities.
Euphemistic Euphuistic	substituting a mild term for a harsher or distasteful one ----- any artificial, high-flown style of speech or writing	Euphemistic terms of 'collateral damage' and 'terrorist threat' cannot be used any more to hide the on going genocide of Palestinians by the Israelis. ----- Euphuistic prose of colonial administrators widened the gap between them and their indigenous subjects.
Affluence Effluence	abundant wealth ----- the process of flowing out	The postwar era was one of new affluence for the working class. ----- The tremendous effluence of the river capsized the small boat.
Loath Loathe	Unwilling or reluctant; disinclined ----- to feel strong hatred or disgust for	She is loath to give up her hard-earned liberty. ----- The two men loathe each other.
Moat Mote	ditch dug as a fortification and usually filled with water ----- A very small particle; a speck	A moat separates the animals in the zoo from the spectators. ----- Dust motes swirled in the sunlight.
Salutary Salubrious	Effecting or designed to effect an improvement; remedial ----- Conducive or favourable to health or well-being.	It was a new and salutary experience to be in the minority. ----- After getting the new job in London, it took him some time to adjust to the less salubrious environment.
Punctual Punctilious	arriving etc on time; not late ----- marked by precise accordance with details	Please be punctual for your appointment. ----- He was punctilious about being ready exactly on time.
Deprecate Depreciate	Disapprove of; object against ----- to reduce or decline in value or price	He deprecated this unseemly behaviour. ----- The demand for foreign currency depreciates the real value of local currencies.
Distinct Distinctive	unmistakable, plain, clearly perceptible ----- of a feature that helps to distinguish a person or thing	There was a distinct change in her attitude. ----- Jerusalem has a distinctive Middle East flavour to it.
Venal Venial	easily bribed or corrupted ----- easily excused or forgiven	Human Development index is the lowest in mostly the countries marred with venal and totally corrupt politicians. ----- If he had faults, they were venial ones.
Simulation Dissimulation	the act of imitating the behaviour of some situation or some process by means of something suitably analogous ----- To conceal one's true feelings or intentions.	Investigators established after the plane crash that the pilot had not spent the required amount of hours training in the computer simulation of in-flight emergencies. ----- The more through one's dissimulation, the more successful he can be as a spy.
Trifling Trivial		
Invade Attack	march aggressively into another's territory by military force for the purposes of conquest and occupation ----- to make a sudden, violent attempt to hurt or damage	Britain was twice invaded by the Romans. ----- He attacked me with a knife.
Envy Jealousy	is the desire for something that someone else has, or a feeling of ill will over another person's advantages in general ----- it is a resentful suspicion that someone else has what rightfully belongs to the jealous person	My envy of your success has made me bitter. ----- The favoured treatment of the daughter created jealousy in the son.
Fain Feign	Happily; gladly ----- make believe with the intent to deceive	she would fain be dead ----- He feigned that he was ill
Auger Augur	Any of various hand tools, typically having a threaded shank and cross handle, used for boring holes in wood or ice ----- To be a sign or omen	Use an auger to dig the hole for the new fence post. ----- A smooth dress rehearsal augured well for the play.
Respectfully Respectively	Showing or marked by proper respect ----- Singly in the order designated or mentioned	Treating old people respectfully shows a good upbringing. ----- He gave Janet and John a cake and a chocolate respectively.
Illusion Delusion	An erroneous perception of reality ----- a mistaken or unfounded opinion or idea	Floor-to-ceiling windows give the illusion of extra space. ----- I was under the delusion that he intended to marry me.
Hoard Horde	to store up or keep large quantities of (something), often in secret ----- A large group or crowd; a swarm	They've begun to hoard food and gasoline. ----- A horde of people was screaming for tickets.
Brooch Broad	A relatively large decorative pin or clasp. ----- general; not detailed	She wore a brooch on the collar of her dress. ----- We discussed the plans in broad outline.
Demesne Demean		
Aviary Apiary	A large enclosure for holding birds in confinement ----- A place where bees and beehives are kept, especially a place where bees are raised for their honey.	There an aviary around the corner with parrots, macaws and peacocks. ----- Her apiary was abandoned when the queen bee died.
Revel Reveal	to take great delight in something ----- to make known	She revelled in her unaccustomed leisure. ----- She has refused to reveal her daughter's whereabouts.
Caret Carat	a mark used by an author or editor to indicate where something is to be inserted into a text ----- the unit of measurement for the proportion of gold in an alloy; 18-karat gold is 75% gold; 24-karat gold is pure gold	Instead of cutting the whole sentence, use carets to indicate any alterations or additions. ----- She got an eighteen-carat gold ring on her birthday from her father.

English Précis and Composition Past Papers

Avenge Revenge	to take revenge for a wrong on behalf of someone else ----- action taken in return for an injury or offence	He spent five years avenging his daughter's death. ----- The man told the manager he would take revenge on the company for dismissing him.
Practical Practicable	It refers to a person, idea, project, etc., as being more concerned with or relevant to practice than theory ----- it refers to a project or idea as being capable of being done or put into effect	The idea had no practical application. ----- The plan was expensive, yet practicable.
Occlude Occult	block passage through ----- supernatural practices, ceremonies etc	The wad of paper occluded the toilet. ----- He has made a study of witches, magic and the occult.
Farther Further	farther should be reserved for physical distance and further for non-physical, metaphorical advancement	If you are planning to drive any farther than Mardan in winter, you'd better carry chains. ----- We won't be able to answer these questions until we are further along in our research
Differ from Differ with	in the sense to be unlike, distinguishable," differ is followed by from. If the writer means to show disagreement or a difference of opinion, differ is followed by with	My home computer differs from the one I use at work; mine is a PC, and the one I use at work is a Mac. ----- I differ with my colleague about computers: I think my Mac is better than his PC.
Deduce Imply	to work out from facts one knows or guesses ----- to suggest or hint without actually stating	She hoped he hadn't deduced the reason for her visit. ----- Are you implying that I had something to do with this?
Compare Contrast	examine and note the similarities or differences of ----- to show marked difference from	Commentators compared his work to that of James Joyce. ----- His words contrast with his actions.
Bad Badly	Not good ----- poorly	Divorce is bad for children. ----- I was angry because I played so badly.
Ambiguous Ambivalent	having more than one possible meaning ----- uncertain or unable to decide about what course to follow	His remarks clarify an ambiguous statement given earlier this week. ----- He maintained an ambivalent attitude to religion throughout his life.
Altogether All together	Completely; entirely ----- It indicate that the members of a group perform or undergo an action collectively	When he first saw the examination questions, he was altogether baffled. ----- The wedding guests were gathered all together in the garden.
Ladylike Ladyship	befitting a woman of good breeding ----- a title used to address any peerness except a duchess	She crossed the room with quick, ladylike steps. ----- We are honoured to welcome your Ladyship here tonight.
Allusive Elusive	Containing or characterized by indirect references ----- difficult to catch	The book's allusive title, Bound Upon a Wheel of Fire, is from a line in Shakespeare's King Lear. ----- I had no luck in tracking down this elusive man.
Yew Eue	a type of evergreen tree with dark leaves and red berries -----	There is little sound except for the breeze stirring in the churchyard yew trees. -----
Functional Dysfunctional	capable of functioning; working ----- showing faulty adaptation	We have fully functional smoke alarms on all staircases. ----- The craftsman is likely to seem dysfunctional in a culture of innovation and change.
Jewry Jury	Jews collectively ----- a group of people legally selected to hear a case and to decide what are the facts	Dr. Lisa is an expert of Latin American Jewry. ----- The verdict of the jury was that the prisoner was guilty of the crime.
Fallow Fellow	cultivated land that is not seeded for one or more growing seasons ----- a man or boy	The fields lay fallow. ----- He's quite a nice fellow but I don't like him.
Boy Buoy	a male child; lad; youth ----- A float moored in water to mark a location, warn of danger, or indicate a navigational channel.	She has three girls and one boy. ----- We released the buoy and drifted back on the tide.
All Awl	Being or representing the entire or total number, amount, or quantity ----- A pointed tool for making holes, as in wood or leather	All the windows are open. ----- She used an awl to punch holes in my brand new sofa.
Dual Duel	double; twofold; made up of two ----- a prearranged fight with deadly weapons by two people	The driving instructor's car has dual controls. ----- He killed a man in a duel.
Briefing Debriefing	a meeting at which detailed information or instructions are given ----- formal systematic questioning	They're holding a press briefing tomorrow. ----- The pilots were thoroughly debriefed after every mission.
Loose Lose	free or released from confinement or restraint ----- To be unsuccessful in retaining possession of	A page came loose and floated onto the tiles. ----- He's always losing his car keys.
Atheist agnostic	One who disbelieves or denies the existence of God or gods ----- One who is sceptical about the existence of God but does not profess true atheism	She is an ex-nun who is now an atheist. ----- She grew up in an agnostic household.
Conscious Conscience	Mentally perceptive or alert; awake ----- The awareness of a moral or ethical aspect to one's conduct together with the urge to prefer right over wrong	The patient remained fully conscious after the local anaesthetic was administered. ----- She was suffering terrible pangs of conscience about what she had done.
Queue Cue	a line of people or vehicles waiting for something ----- a stimulus that provides information about what to do	A queue of more than sixty people snaked its way down the pavement. ----- He took this as his cue to leave.

English Précis and Composition Past Papers

Veil Vale	a piece of thin cloth worn over the face or head to hide, cover, or protect it ----- a long depression in the surface of the land that usually contains a river	Some women wear veils for religious reasons, to prevent strangers from seeing their faces. ----- The small vale sheltering under mist-shrouded hills was reminiscent of paradise on earth.
Route Rout	an established line of travel or access ----- an overwhelming defeat	They would go out on his route and check him. ----- The Norman army routed the English opposition.
Diary Dairy	a (small book containing a) record of daily happenings ----- a shop supplying milk, butter, cheese etc	The explorer kept a diary of his adventures. ----- We bought milk at the dairy.
Due Dew	Owed ----- tiny drops of moisture coming from the air as it cools, especially at night	I think I'm still due some pay. ----- The grass is wet with early-morning dew.
Corps Corpse	a division of an army ----- a dead body, especially of a human being	He has been commissioned in the Army Medical Corps ----- The victim's corpse was pulled out of the river.
Ballot Ballet	a method of voting in secret by marking a paper and putting it into a box ----- a theatrical performance of dancing with set steps and mime, often telling a story	The result of the ballot will not be known for two weeks. ----- Swan Lake is my favourite ballet.
Quiet Quite	not making very much, or any, noise ----- to the greatest extent; completely or absolutely	It's very quiet out in the country. ----- It is quite clear that we were firing in self defence.
Adapt Adopt Adept	to make suitable to or fit for a specific use or situation ----- to take into one's family through legal means and raise as one's own child. ----- highly skilled	Things will be different and we will have to adapt. ----- There are hundreds of people desperate to adopt a child. ----- He's very adept at keeping his balance on a rope.
Alleged Accused Suspected	declared but not proved ----- a defendant in a criminal proceeding ----- believed likely	He appeared in court for the alleged murder of his employer. ----- The accused is alleged to be a member of a right-wing gang. ----- The suspected murderer was kept under surveillance.
Bear Borne Born	to be able to support ----- past participle of bear ----- Brought into existence; created	The ice was not thick enough to bear the weight of marching men. ----- The weight was much more than what could be borne by a lone man. ----- A new nation was born with the revolution.
Raise Rise Raze	Collect funds ----- increase in value or to a higher point ----- tear down so as to make flat with the ground	The president raised several million dollars for his college. ----- The value of our house rose sharply last year. ----- The enemy razed the fortifications of the occupied town.
Smell Stink Scent	the sense or power of being aware of things through one's nose ----- to have a very bad smell ----- any property detected by the olfactory system	My sister never had a good sense of smell. ----- We all stank and nobody minded. ----- She could smell the scent of her mother's lacquer.
Least Less Lest	One that is the lowest or smallest in importance, rank, magnitude, or degree ----- not as much or to a smaller extent ----- For fear that	The dinner menu is the least of my worries tonight. ----- You should smoke less if you want to remain healthy. ----- I was afraid to open the door lest he should follow me.
Their There They're	of or belonging to them ----- that place ----- they are	He gave them their coats. ----- Leave the coat in the corner there. They're preparing for a meal.
Capital Capitol	money (for investment etc) ----- A building or complex of buildings in which a state legislature meets	The company is having difficulties in raising capital. ----- A meeting to draft a new constitution is under way in the capitol.
Assay Essay	to test, analyse, or evaluate ----- a written composition; a piece of written prose	She sat down and assayed me with her large brown eyes. ----- The examination consists of four essays.
Envelop Envelope	To enclose or encase completely with or as if with a covering ----- a thin, flat wrapper or cover, especially for a letter	The thick black cloud of smoke that enveloped the area. ----- he opened the envelope and withdrew a typed note.
Decree Degree	to order, command or decide ----- (an) amount or extent	The court decreed that he should pay the fine in full. ----- The degree of skill varies considerably from person to person.
Desolate Dissolute	uninhabited; deserted ----- unrestrained by convention or morality	The desolate lands of past nations have turned into deserts. ----- She regretted her dissolute life.
Species Specie	A fundamental category of taxonomic classification ----- In a similar manner; in kind	There are several species of Zebra. ----- When Harry blocked John's driveway with his trash, John parked his car in Harry's driveway and repaid the offence in specie.
Tortuous Torturous	twisted or winding ----- extremely painful	The tortuous track in the race was difficult for even the most experienced drivers to master. ----- The torturous interrogation of the detainees has been termed illegal by international law.
Wet Whet	containing, soaked in, or covered with, water or another liquid ----- make keen or more acute	We got soaking wet when it began to rain. ----- The delicious aroma of the curry whetted our appetites.

English Précis and Composition Past Papers

Word	Meaning	Sentence 1	Sentence 2
Clear	easy to see, hear or understand ----- to make or become free from obstacles	The details on that photograph are very clear.	He cleared the path of debris.
Face	opposite to ----- to turn, stand etc in the direction of	The hotel is facing the church.	She faced him across the desk.
Energy	the ability to act, or the habit of acting, strongly and vigorously ----- any source of usable power	He has amazing energy for his age.	Oil shortages have brought an energy crisis.
Value	worth, importance or usefulness ----- to suggest a suitable price for	His special knowledge was of great value during the war	This painting has been valued at \$50,000.
Build	to form or construct from parts ----- to increase	People don't build houses with mud bricks any more.	The traffic begins to build up around five o'clock.
Ruler	a person who rules or commands ----- measuring stick	He was an indecisive ruler.	It will be much more appropriate for you to take these measurements with a ruler.
Point	a particular matter for consideration or action ----- to aim in a particular direction	You've missed the point.	He pointed the gun at her.
Wear	to be dressed in or carry on ----- to have or show	She wore a white dress.	She wore an angry expression.
Glasses	A pair of lenses mounted in a light frame ----- plural of glass	He can hardly see without his glasses.	We need some glasses of water here.
Vessel	a container, usually for liquid ----- a ship	An English fishing vessel has capsized of the shore	Pour me some milk from that vessel.
Stage	to prepare and produce ----- a period or step in the development of something	This play was first staged in 1928.	The plan is in its early stages.
Spirit	a principle or emotion which makes someone act ----- a person's mood	The spirit of kindness seems to be lacking in the world nowadays.	This news may raise his spirits.

Word	Meaning
Munificent	very generous
Rapacious	excessively greedy and grasping; devouring or craving food in great quantities; living by preying on other animals especially by catching living prey
Jeopardize	put at risk; pose a threat to; present a danger to
Fatuous	devoid of intelligence
Edify	to improve the mind or morals of; make understand
Esoteric	confined to and understandable by only an enlightened inner circle
Impasse	a situation in which no progress can be made or no advancement is possible
Incongruous	lacking in harmony or compatibility or appropriateness
Docile	willing to be taught or led or supervised or directed; easily handled or managed; ready and willing to be taught
Repercussions	Consequences; backlash
Agrarian	relating to rural matters
Feedback	response to an inquiry or experiment; the process in which part of the output of a system is returned to its input in order to regulate its further output
Output	production of a certain amount; what is produced in a given time period; the quantity of something (as a commodity) that is created (usually within a given period of time); final product; the things produced; signal that comes out of an electronic system; to create or manufacture a specific amount
Nostalgia	longing for something past
Bibliophile	someone who loves (and usually collects) books
Prodigal	marked by rash extravagance; very generous; recklessly wasteful; a recklessly extravagant consumer
Input	a component of production; something that goes into the production of output; any stimulating information or event; acts to arouse action; signal going into an electronic system; enter (data or a program) into a computer
Antiquarian	of or relating to antiques or antiquities; of or relating to persons who study or deal in antiques or antiquities; an expert or collector of antiquities
Brag	an instance of boastful talk; show off

English Précis and Composition Past Papers

Find words similar in meaning.				
Moratorium a) large tomb b) waiting period ✓ c) security for debt d) funeral house	Prolific a) skilful b) fruitful ✓ c) wordy d) spread out	Bi-Partisan a) narrow minded b) progressive c) representing two parties ✓ d) divided	Unequivocal a) careless b) unmistakable ✓ c) variable d) Incomparable	Covenant a) prayer b) debate c) garden d) agreement ✓
Tentative a) expedient b) nominal c) provisional ✓	Demographic: relating the study of a) government b) demons c) communications d) population ✓	Sonar Apparatus to a) detect something in the air b) locate objects under water ✓ c) measure rain d) anticipate earthquake	Progeny a) a genius b) off springs ✓ c) ancestors d) growth	Empirical a) Relay on theory b) based on experience ✓ c) having vision of power d) disdainful
Polarize a) chill b) to separate into opposing extremes ✓ c) slant d) cause to be freely movable	Apolitical a) conservative b) rude c) non-political ✓ d) radical	Plenary a) timely b) combined c) florid d) full ✓	Entourage a) decorators b) tourist c) attendant ✓ d) adversaries	Diagnosis a) identification of an illness ✓ b) Prophecy c) plan d) likeness
Nucleus a) core ✓ b) outer part c) inedible nut d) quality	Foible a) witty retort b) petty lie c) personal weakness ✓	Premise a) assumption ✓ b) outline c) commitment	Sacrosanct a) peaceful b) sacred ✓ c) mundane d) painful	Calumny a) misfortune b) praised c) quietness d) slander ✓
Viable a) credible b) questionable c) workable ✓ d) vital	Decorum a) style of decoration b) innocence c) social conformity ✓ d) modestly	Touch stone a) goal post b) worry bead c) magic Jewel d) standard or Criterion ✓	Sheepish a) embarrassed ✓ b) conforming c) cowardly d) unfortunate	Domesticate a) to turn native b) be exclusive c) cut claws d) tame ✓
Antics a) expectation b) temper c) string games d) absurd behaviour ✓	Recapitulate a) to surrender b) be indecisive c) summarise ✓ d) retract	Hypothetical a) philosophical b) truce c) assumed ✓ d) volatile	Data a) ideas, b) belief c) point of origin d) information ✓	Era a) a disaster b) cycle c) period of history ✓ d) curious event
Trait a) a narrow enclosure, b) strong point, c) distinguishing feature ✓ d) footprint	Clear away a) clean b) empty c) remove ✓ d) finish	Break down a) collapse ✓ b) enter c) cut off d) begin	Keep up a) restrain b) control c) continue ✓ d) maintain	Turn out a) refuse b) start c) produce ✓ d) arrive
See over a) examine ✓ b) repair c) discover d) enquire	Perturb a) to upset ✓ b) to cause doubt c) to burden d) to test	Wry a) twisted ✓ b) sad c) witty d) suffering	Ferret a) to search ✓ b) to trap c) to hide d) to flee	Pallid a) weak b) pale ✓ c) dull d) scared
Intrepid a) fearless ✓ b) cowardly c) dull d) fool hardy	Reprisal a) surprise b) award c) revision d) retaliation ✓	Viable a) wavering b) divided c) capable of living ✓ d) fading	Resurgent a) revolutionary b) fertile c) rising again ✓ d) fading	Archipelago a) reef b) glacier c) cluster of islands ✓ d) lagoon
Piazza a) cheese dish b) veranda c) public square ✓ d) style or dash	Baklava a) stringed instrument b) dessert ✓ c) whining dance d) gratuity	Ionic a) Indian stone monument b) Greek architecture ✓ c) Roman Sculpture d) Mediterranean Sea	Cicerone a) teacher b) literary classic c) chaperone d) guide ✓	Denouement a) denunciation b) dormancy c) termination ✓ d) explanation
Anathema a) curse ✓ b) cure c) anaemia d) asthma	Torpor a) fever b) lethargy ✓ c) taciturn d) torrid	Touchstone a) criterion ✓ b) gold c) character d) characteristics	Sequester a) eliminate b) finalize c) sedate d) isolate ✓	Finicky a) unstable b) troubled c) fussy ✓ d) unpleasant
Samizdat a) underground press ✓ b) secret police c) twirling jig d) large metal tea urn	Veld a) Arctic wasteland b) European plains c) South African grassland ✓ d) Deep valley	Cajun a) French-Canadian descendant ✓ b) American Indian c) Native of the Everglades d) Early inhabitant of the Bahamas Islands	Loggia (a) pathway (b) marsh (c) gallery ✓ (d) carriage	Lacunae a) tiny marine life b) shallow water c) local dialect d) missing parts ✓
Paroxysm a) moral lesson b) sudden outburst ✓ c) contradiction d) pallid imitation	Grotto a) statue b) cavern ✓ c) neighbourhood d) type of moth	Fetter a) rot b) to restrain ✓ c) make better d) enable to fly	Stoicism a) indifference b) boldness c) deep affection d) patient endurance ✓	Succulent a) edible ✓ b) parched c) generous d) mature

English Précis and Composition Past Papers

Malediction a) compliment b) summary c) perfume d) awkwardness ✓	Acrimionious a) bitter ✓ b) provocative c) cheap d) volatile	Calligraphy a) computers b) handwriting ✓ c) blood pressure d) brain waves	Void a) emptiness ✓ b) lea c) anger d) trick	Demise a) conclude b) end c) affection d) death ✓
Incendiary a) happy b) sneer c) causing fire ✓ d) jolly	Essay a) direct b) compose c) attempt ✓ d) suppose	Presumptive a) credible ✓ b) timid	Radical a) innate ✓ b) moderate	Obscure a) unclear ✓ b) doubtful
Amiable a) obnoxious b) affable ✓	Hoodwink a) delude ✓ b) avoid	Guileful a) honourable b) disingenuous ✓	Obsession a) fixed ideas ✓ b) delusion	Flume a) sea bird with a wing span four times its body length. b) narrow gorge with a stream running through it ✓ c) warm summer wind
Epitaph a) editorial b) clever head line c) tomb stone inscription ✓	Laconic a) concise ✓ b) weekly c) circular	Misopedia a) a hatred for children ✓ b) middle age c) family history	Shingle a) gravelly beach ✓ b) exposed sand bar c) group of dolphins	Filial a) related by marriage b) of sons and daughters ✓ c) of brothers
Ménage a) marriage vow b) household ✓ c) golden years	Chronicle a) Daily ritual b) Widely held beliefs c) Account of events ✓			

Find words opposite in meaning.				
Desiccate a) Lengthen b) Hallow c) Exonerate d) Saturate ✓ e) Anaesthetize	Apotheosis a) departure from tradition b) impatience with stupidity c) demotion from glory ✓ d) surrender to impulse e) cause for grief	Spunk a) success b) timidity ✓ c) growing awareness d) loss of prestige e) lack of intelligence	Cavil a) discern b) disclose c) introduce d) flatter e) commend ✓	Raucous a) orderly ✓ b) absorbent c) buoyant d) Mellifluous e) Contentious
Deleterious a) nourishing ✓ b) injurious c) vital d) fatal	Valedictory a) farewell b) final c) hopeful ✓ d) parting	Sedentary a) afraid b) loyal c) active ✓ d) torpid	Turbid a) muddy b) clear ✓ c) invariable d) improbable	Phlegmatic a) dull b) active ✓ c) lymphatic d) frigid
Captious a) tolerant ✓ b) capable c) winning d) recollected	Penchant a) dislike ✓ b) attitude c) imminence d) distance	Putative a) powerful b) colonial c) undisputed ✓ d) unremarkable	Facsimile a) imitation b) model ✓ c) mutation d) pattern	Larceny a) appropriation b) peculation c) purloining d) indemnification ✓
Twine a) straighten ✓ b) continue c) unravel d) detach	Frugal a) prodigal ✓ b) intemperate c) extravagant d) profuse	Gawky a) neat b) handy c) graceful ✓ d) handsome	Capricious a) firm ✓ b) decided c) inflexible d) constant	Congeval a) liquefy ✓ b) mollify c) harden d) solidify
Plain a) clean b) distinct c) ambiguous ✓ d) frugal	Odious a) porous b) charming ✓ c) horrid d) offensive	Inflame a) calm ✓ b) anger c) excite d) kindle	Ignoble a) lowly b) vile c) good d) noble ✓	Melancholy a) sorrowful b) happy ✓ c) forbidden d) brisk
Obliterate a) preserve ✓ b) destroy c) ravage d) design	Ally a) alloy b) foe ✓ c) partner d) accessory	Vulgar a) coarse b) gross c) exquisite ✓ d) obscene	Pretend a) sham b) substantiate ✓ c) feign d) fabricate	Liberty a) permission b) license c) serfdom d) bound ✓
Conscientious a) uncorrupt b) honourable c) principled d) profligate ✓	Presentable a) unable b) scruffy ✓ c) suitable d) personable	Salvation a) escape b) starvation c) doom ✓ d) rescue	Annihilate a) supplement b) augment c) append d) contract	Brace a) prop b) knock ✓ c) invigorate d) refresh
Brusque a) gruff b) curt c) smooth ✓ d) discourteous	Concord a) amity b) accord c) variance ✓ d) unity	Conscientious a) uncorrupt b) honourable c) principled d) profligate ✓	Diplomatic a) sagacious b) shrewd c) bungling ✓ d) prudent	Hypocrisy a) uprightness ✓ b) pretence c) cant d) deceit

English Précis and Composition Past Papers

Onerous a) burdensome b) wearing c) difficult d) fluent ✓				
--	--	--	--	--

English Précis and Composition Past Papers

Wrong Sentence	Corrections
Where was a very different atmosphere in the town this morning than there was yesterday.	There was a very different atmosphere in the town this morning than that was yesterday.
Every one must decide for themselves what to do about it.	Every one must decide for himself what to do about it.
I shouldn't be surprised if he doesn't turn up tomorrow.	I will not be surprised if he doesn't turn up tomorrow.
Neither Farooq or Akbar are going to the wedding lunch on Saturday.	Neither Farooq nor Akbar is going to the wedding lunch on Saturday.
I compared his essay to Mushtaq's and found them to be almost identical.	I compared his essay with Mushtaq's and found it to be almost identical.
When public transport is better developed, there will no longer be so many cars driving people to work.	When public transportation is better developed, there will no longer be so many people driving to work.
The subject of my paper is about air pollution.	The subject of my paper is air pollution.
The princess's father was a good man and who was kind.	The princess's father was a good and kind man.
A morality play is where the characters represents virtue and vices.	A morality play is where the characters represent virtues and vices.
A square is when all four sides are the same length.	A square is when all four sides are of the same length.
Evil and suffering has always troubled man.	Evil and suffering have always troubled man.
Why does such disturbing things exist?	Why do such disturbing things exist?
Neither her cousins nor her aunt were at home.	Neither her cousins nor her aunt was at home.
Neither Tariq nor Khalid are worthy of her.	Neither Tariq nor Khalid is worthy of her
The first fleet of cars were made of copper.	The first fleet of cars was made of copper.
To be honest lies must never be told.	To be honest, one must never tell lies.
The idea of me flying is too silly to even contemplate.	The idea of flying is too silly to even contemplate for me.
He reads better than any boy in the class.	He reads better than any other boy in the class.
Every citizen should use their role.	Every citizen should use his role.
I do not remember him giving me a present.	I do not remember his giving me a present.
Whom would you say is likely to win the fight?	Who would you say is likely to win the fight?
Neither him nor his friend were hurt.	Neither he nor his friend was hurt.
Passing by the damage house, a brick fell on my shoulder.	While passing by the damaged house, a brick fell on my shoulder.
My cousin always has and always will be interested in the theatre.	My cousin has and always will be interested in the theatre.
The vast extent of the steppes of Central Asia is enormous.	The extent of the vast steppes of Central Asia is enormous.
Nobody didn't ought to lose their way so easy in a small town.	Nobody ought to lose his way so easily in a small town.
This is all the father you can go.	This is the farthest you can go.
He seemed to be an industrious person but this was only an allusion.	He seemed to be an industrious person but this was only an illusion.
His avocation is dentistry.	His vocation is dentistry.
The antiquarian bade one million dollars for the old painting.	The antiquarian bade one million dollars on the old painting.
The ferry collided against the tug-boat.	The ferry collided with the tug-boat.
Poetry is more sensual than prose.	Poetry is more sensuous than prose.
Both Naeem and Shahid is tired, they should go back.	Both Naeem and Shahid are tired. They should go back.
He was seeking political asylum but was not permitted to emigrate to USA.	He was seeking political asylum but was not permitted to immigrate to USA.
I wouldn't be in your boots for the all the wealth in the world.	I wouldn't want to be in your boots for the all the wealth in the world.
Are you trying to infer that I would be something dishonest?	Are you trying to infer that I will do something dishonest?
The lake freezed rapidly.	The lake froze rapidly.
The firm was unwilling to forego its usual commission.	The firm was unwilling to forego its commission.
We watched the lambs gamble on the green.	We watched the lambs gambling on the green.
He belonged to the gild of carpenters.	He belonged to the guild of carpenters.
He hadn't ought to have spoken.	He ought not to have spoken.
Is this your half-brother?	Is he your half-brother?
Hay! Watch out for the car!	Hay! Watch out for the car!
This is the historical spot where he was shot dead.	This is the historic spot where he was shot dead.
We bought a Japanese print.	We bought a Japanese's print.
Fresh flowers smell sweetly.	Fresh flowers smell sweet.
His wisdom consisted of his handling the dangerous situation successfully.	His wisdom consisted in his handling the dangerous situation successfully.
Many a girls were appearing in the examination.	Many a girl was appearing in the examination.

English Précis and Composition Past Papers

The vehicles run fastly on the Motorway.	The vehicles run faster on the Motorway.
Smoking is injurious for health.	Smoking is injurious to health.
He availed of this situation very intelligently.	He availed this situation very intelligently.
The black vermin is an odious creature.	The black vermin are an odious creature.
What to speak of meat, even, vegetables were not available now.	Even vegetables are not available now let alone meat.
No sooner we left our home when it started raining.	No sooner did we leave our home when it started raining.
Little money I had I spent on the way.	Whatever little money I had, I spent it on the way.
The criminal was sent on the goal.	The criminal was sent to the jail.
I shall not come here unless you will not call me.	I shall not come here unless you call me.
He does not have some devotion for the project you have given to him.	He does not have any devotion for the project you have given him.
I went to either of the Four hill stations.	I went to all of the Four hill stations.
Who did you meet on your way to school?	Whom did you meet on your way to school?
You must remember that you are junior than Hamid.	You must remember that you are junior to Hamid.
Aslam, as well as, his Four friends were planning to visit the museum.	Aslam, as well as, his Four friends was planning to visit the museum.
Where you went in the vacation?	Where did you go on vacation?
This is the youngest and most intelligent of my two sons.	This is the younger and more intelligent of my two sons.
He is one of those who always succeed.	He is one of those who always succeeded.
I congratulate you for your success.	I congratulate you on you success.
The hostel provides boarding and lodging to students.	The hostel provides board and lodgings to students.
My cousin-brother will come to meet me.	My cousin will come to meet me.
He lives backside of my house.	He lives on the backside of my house.
You have read it. Isn't it?	You have read it. Haven't you?
We discussed about this question.	We discussed this question.
I am studying in an University for an year.	I have been studying in a University for a year.
Neither he nor I arc at fault.	Neither he nor I am at fault.
The committee have issued a notice.	The committee has issued a notice.
One must boast of his great qualities.	
It is one of the best speeches that has ever been made in the General Assembly.	It is one of the best speeches that have ever been made in the General Assembly.
Passing through ten different cities, Karachi is the most active.	While passing through ten different cities, I found Karachi the most active.
He was laid up for six weeks with two broken ribs.	He was laid-in for six weeks with two broken ribs.
Someone showed the visitors in the room.	Someone showed the visitors their room.
Until you remain idle you will make no progress.	While you remain idle you will not make progress.
It is very wrong to be devoted to lying and cheating.	It is very wrong to lie and cheat.
He told me that he is waiting for me since a long time.	He told me that he has been waiting for me for a long time.
The house stood up in the dull street because of its red door.	The house stood out in the dull street because of its red door.
He brought the articles to the market which he wanted to sell.	He brought the articles to the market which he had wanted to sell.
What does a patient tell a doctor it is confidential?	How does a patient tell a doctor that it is confidential?
It is a fact that I almost drowned makes me very careful about water safety whenever I go swimming.	The fact that I almost drowned makes me very careful about water safety whenever I go swimming.
Did they not consider this as quiet convincing?	Did they not consider this quite convincing.
St Peter's at Rome is the largest of all other churches.	St Peter's at Rome is the largest of all churches.
The amount they receive in wages is greater than twenty years ago.	
They succeeded with hardly making any effort .	They succeeded hardly making any effort.
Whatever have you done !	What have you done!
The officers were given places according to their respective ranks.	The officers were placed according to their respective ranks.
Playing a game regularly is better than to read books always.	Playing a game regularly is better than always reading books.
A good reader must be hard working and possess intelligence.	A good reader must be hard working and intelligent.
I noticed Akbar was carrying a bag in his hand.	I noticed that Akbar was carrying a bag in his hand.
Having entered his house, the door was shut at one.	Having entered his house, he shut the door at once.
He thinks that his writing is better than his friend.	He thinks that his writing is better than that of his friend.

English Précis and Composition Past Papers

He is such a man who is liked by everyone.	He is such a man whom everyone likes.
I sent a verbal message to my friend.	I sent an oral message to my friend.
He has visited as many historical places as one has or can visit.	He has visited as many historical places as one can.
Either of these three umbrellas will suit me.	Any of these three umbrellas will suit me.
Shall you not take my word in this matter?	Will you not take my word in this matter?
This poor man was suffering much for a long time past.	This poor man was suffering much for a long time past.
If he had not died, he would grow up to be a murderer.	
Neither he nor I are in the wrong.	Neither he nor I was in the wrong.
It is high time they mend this road.	It is high time that they mend this road.
I heard him went down the stairs.	I heard him go down the stairs.
Paper is made of wood.	Paper is made out of wood.
He swore from God.	He swore at God.
Is your dress different than mine?	Is your dress different than that of mine?
He inquired whether I live in Karachi.	He inquired whether I had lived in Karachi.
He spoke these words upon his face.	He spoke these words in his face.
The ran direct to their college.	The ran directly to their college.
I shall not come here unless you will not call me.	I shall not come here unless you call me.
They have been building a wall since three days.	They have been building a wall for three days.
He does not have some devotion to his studies.	He does not have any devotion to his studies.
This house is built of brick and stone.	The house is being built of brick and stone.
The climate of Pakistan is better than England?	The climate of Pakistan is better than that of England?
He swore by God.	He swore at God.
You ought to have regarded him your benefactor.	You ought to have regarded him as your benefactor.
My friend is very ill, I hope he will soon die.	My friend is very ill, I hope he will not die soon.
He is waiting for better and promising opportunity.	He is waiting for a better and more promising opportunity.
When I shall see her I will deliver her your gift.	When I see her I will deliver your gift to her.
Many a sleepless nights she spent.	Many a sleepless night she spent.
Sajjad as well as Saleem were late.	Sajjad as well as Saleem is late.
He is the most cleverest boy in the class.	He is the cleverest boy in the class.
I have met him last month.	I met him last month.
Your writing is inferior than him.	Your writing is inferior to his.
Nothing but novels please him.	
The teacher gave the boy an advice which he refused.	
He brought the articles to the market which he wanted to sell.	
Please speak to the concerned clerk.	Please speak with the concerned clerk.
You have got time too short for that.	You have got too short a time for that.
Not only he was thief, but he was also a murderer.	Not only was he a thief, but also a murderer.
They thought that the plan would be succeeded.	They had thought that the plan would succeed.
It is unlikely that he wins the race.	It is unlikely that he will win the race.
My uncle has told me something about it yesterday.	My uncle told me something about it yesterday.
I hoped that by the time I would have got there it would have stopped raining.	I hoped that by the time I had got there it would have stopped raining.
They prevented the driver to stop.	They prevented the driver from stopping.

English Précis and Composition Past Papers

Change the sentences from direct to indirect and vice-versa.	
He said, "Don't open the door."	He forbade me to open the door.
He offered to bring me some tea.	He said, "Shall I bring you some tea?"
He said, "Thank you!"	He thanked me.
He said, "Can you swim?" and I said, "NO".	He enquired if I could swim and I replied in negative.
He told Aslam to get his coat.	He said, "Get your coat, Aslam".
"If I were you, I would wait," I said.	I told him that if I was in his place I would have waited.
He ordered the peon to lock the door.	He ordered the peon to lock the door.
He warned me not to leave my car unlocked as there had been lot of stealing from cars.	He said, "Don't leave your car unlocked as there have been lot of stealing from cars".
The boy said to his teacher, "I do not know the answer".	The boy told his teacher that he did not know the answer.
The beggar said, "May you live long and grow rich"	The beggar prayed that I might live long and grow rich.
"It is very hot today," cried the boys, "we cannot play."	Boys cried that it was very hot that day so they could not play.
She said, "what a fine morning it is!"	She exclaimed with wonder that it was a fine morning.
She said, "I am not telling a lie."	She said that she was not telling a lie.
He said, "I will come to see you tomorrow."	He said that he would come to see me the next day.
He said to him, "I really need your help."	He said to him that he really needed his help.
She said, "Can you tell me what the time is."	She asked me if I could tell her what the time was.
"Hurrah"! Said the captain of the team, "we won the match".	The captain of the team exclaimed with joy that they had won the match.
"Please Sir, take pity on a poor beggar woman", the wretched old woman asked for alms	The wretched old woman asked for alms by entreating to take pity on her.
They say. "Is this the right time to arrive? Aren't you forgetting something"?	The say whether this is the right time to arrive and if we are not forgetting something.
He often says, "I am always willing to help the needy, if I am assured they are really in need".	He often says that he is always willing to help the needy if he is assured that they are really in need.
The master said, "How long will you take in warming my food?"	The master asked how long would he take in warming his food.
The boy said. "Alas! I could not pass my examination"	The boy exclaimed with grief that he could not pass his examination.
"Come here quickly and work out this problem on the blackboard" said the teacher.	The teacher asked her to go there quickly and work out that problem on the board.
"What a lovely evening!" Said Irum.	Irum exclaimed that the evening was lovely.
"What is the name of this beautiful building?" asked the visitor.	The visitor asked what was the name of that beautiful building.
He said "Sit down over here and don't move until I allow you".	He ordered him to sit down over there and not to move until he allowed him.
"This is your house, isn't it?" asked Jammie.	Jammie asked whether or not that was his house.
"Where do you want to be dropped?" said the taxi driver.	The taxi driver asked where he wanted to be dropped.
"Call the first witness," said the judge.	The judge ordered to call the first witness.
"Don't blame him for the accident," the boy's mother said.	The boy's mother asked not to blame him for the accident.
He said, "I banged on Cliff's door but he did not answer".	He said that he had banged on Cliff's door but he did not answer.
"Where is the boat? Hurry up we are being chased", she cried.	She asked where the boat was and prompted them to hurry as they were being chased.
"I have lost my way. Can you direct me to the Post Office please?" said the old lady.	The old lady asked to be directed to the post office as she had lost her way.
He said to me, "what a pity you missed such an important meeting."	
"How wonderful! Why didn't you suggest this plan earlier".	He exclaimed joyfully wondering why I had not suggested that plan earlier.
He said, "Let's wait till the road gets cleared".	He suggested to wait until the road got cleared.
Our sociology professor said, 'I expect you to be in class every day. Unexcused absences may affect your grades.'	Our sociology professor told us that he expected us to be in class everyday. He warned us that unexcused absences might affect our grades.
My father often told me, 'every obstacle is a steppingstone to success. You should view problems in your life as opportunities to prove yourself.'	My father often advised me that every obstacle is a steppingstone to success. He said that I should view problems in my life as opportunities to prove myself.
When Tom asked Jack why he couldn't go to the game, Jack said he didn't have enough money for a ticket.	Tom said to Jack, "Why can't you go to the game?" Jack replied, "I don't have enough money for a ticket".
When I asked the ticket seller if the concert was going to be rescheduled, she told me that she didn't know and said that she just worked there.	I asked the ticket seller, "Is the concert going to be rescheduled?" She said, "I don't know. I just work here".
Ali said, 'I must go to Lahore next week to visit my ailing mother.'	Ali said that he must go to Lahore next week to visit his ailing mother.
The policeman told the pedestrian, 'you mustn't cross the road against the red light'	The policeman told the pedestrian that he must not cross the road against the red light.

English Précis and Composition Past Papers

Ahmed asked if what I said was really true.	Ahmed said to me, "What you say is really true?"
Sarah wanted to know where they would be tomorrow around three O'clock	Sarah asked, "Can you tell me where will they be tomorrow around three O'clock?"
He said, "let it rain ever so hard I shall go out".	He exclaimed firmly that let it rain ever so hard he would go out.
The mother said to the young girl, "Do you know where Salim is"?	The mother asked the young girl whether she knew where Salim was.
The officer said, "Hand it all! Can you not do it more neatly".	The officer ordered to hand it all and rebuked him for not doing it neatly.
Invoking our help with a loud voice she asked us whether we would come to her aid.	She shouted loudly to us, "Will you come to my help?"
He exclaimed with an oath that no one could have expected such a turn of events.	He said, "I swear no one can expect such a turn of events!"
The teacher said to his students, "Why did you come so late"?	The teacher asked his students why had they come so late.
They applauded him saying that he had done well.	They said to him, "Well done!"
"You say," said the judge, "the bag you lost contained one hundred and ten pounds"?	The judge asked if he said that the bag he had lost contained one hundred and ten pounds.
"this world, "he declared" is full of sorrow. Would that I were dead!"	He exclaimed that the world was full of sorrow and wished himself to be dead.
he said to me, "come early; we shall be waiting for you."	He asked me to come early as they would be waiting for me.
"how delighted I am, "said he, "to meet my friends here by my own fireside!"	He exclaimed with joy to meet his friends there by his own fireside.
the man said that he was quite sure he should succeed.	The man said, "I am quite sure I shall succeed.
John exclaimed with a sigh that he was ruined.	"Aaah! I am ruined.", said John.
The constable enquired of the man where he was going	The constable said to the man, "Where are you going?"
The boy said that he would walk.	The boy said, "He will walk."
"what losses, "cried he, "have I suffered? What anguish have I endured!"	He exclaimed with grief that he had suffered great losses and had endured great anguish.
He said to his friend, "Let me go home now"	He asked his friend to let him go home then.
I will say "Mother, I will always obey you"	I will say to mother that I will always obey her.
"Splendid": said father as he read my report,	Father applauded me as he read my report.
He said, "Good morning, can you help me"	He wished him good morning and asked whether he could help him.
She said "Brother, why do you tease me"	She asked her brother why he teased her.
The King said to the Queen, "If I die, take care of my people"	The King asked the Queen to take care of his people if he died.
"By God", he said" I do not know his name"	He swore upon God that he did not know his name.
You exclaimed with sorrow that you lost your pen.	You said, "Alas! I lost my pen."
He said to him, "why do you waste your time?"	He asked him why he wasted his time.
He ordered his servant not to stand there doing nothing.	He said to his servant, "Do not stand here doing nothing."
He exclaimed with joy that he had won the match.	He said, "Bravo! I have won the match".
The traveller said, "What a dark night?"	
He said, "Let it rain even so hard, I will start today."	He said that he would start that day even if it rained hard.
My mother said, "May you live happily and prosper in your life."	My mother prayed that I might live happily and prosper in my life.
He said, "How foolish have I been?"	He exclaimed with regret that he had been very foolish.
On Monday he said, "My son is coming today."	On Monday he said that his son was coming that day.
They wanted to know where he was going the following week.	
he said, "Did she go yesterday?"	He asked whether she went the day before.
'By God', he said, "I do not know her nickname."	He swore that he did not know her name.
He says that we are to meet him at the station.	He says, "Don't meet me at the station."
He said, "I don't know the way. Ask the old man sitting on the gate."	He said that he did not know the way and told us to enquire from the old man sitting on the gate.
My father prayed that I would recover from my illness	My father said, "I hope you will recover from your illness."
He said, "How will you manage it?"	He asked how will he manage it.
"I couldn't get into the house because I had lost my key, so I had to break a window", he said.	He said that he couldn't get into the house because he had lost his key and therefore had to break a window.
"Would you like to see over the house or are you more interested in the garden"? She asked me.	She asked me whether I would like to see over the house or am I more interested in the garden.
"Please send whatever you can spare. All the contributions will be acknowledged immediately", said the secretary of the disastrous fund.	The secretary of the disastrous fund requested to send whatever one could spare. He assured that all contributions will be acknowledged immediately.
She said if he'd like to go the concert and I said I was sure he would.	She said, "Will he like to go to the concert?" I said, "I am sure he will."

English Précis and Composition Past Papers

I told her to stop making fuss about nothing and said that she was lucky to have got a seat at all.	I said, "Stop making fuss about nothing. You are lucky to have got a seat at all."
The teacher said, " You must not forget what I told you last lesson. I shall expect you to be able to repeat it next lesson by heart."	The teacher said that I must not forget what she had told me last lesson. She also added that she would expect me to be able to repeat it next lesson by heart.
He asked me if he should leave it in the car.	He asked, "Shall I leave it in the car or not."
He said, "May I open the window? It's is rather hot in here."	He enquired that might he open the window as it was hot in there.

English Précis and Composition Past Papers

Change the voice of the sentences.	
The production of Cash Crops directly affects the economy of an agricultural country.	The economy of an agricultural country is directly affected by the production of Cash Crops.
The accelerated car sped past the traffic signal and crashed into a van and killed two men.	Traffic signal was sped past and two men were killed by an accelerated car that crashed into a van.
The students were asked to submit the assignment before to end of day.	The assignment was to be submitted by the students before the end of the day.
The new budget was being discussed.	Discussion was going on the new budget.
The Manager has announced a bonus for all the workers.	Bonus for all workers has been announced by the Manager.
The police chased the dacoit and finally arrested him.	The dacoit was chased by the police and finally got arrested.
It was difficult to finish the work on time.	Work was difficult to finish on time.
She manages her duties, without any help, despite her blindness.	Despite her blindness, her duties are managed by her without any help.
I appreciate your efforts and hope you will continue in the same fashion.	Your efforts are appreciated by me and I hope the same fashion will be continued by you
The assassins shot the leader in broad daylight.	The leader was shot in broad daylight by the assassins.
The President inaugurated the Motorway recently.	The Motorway was recently inaugurated by the President.
Will you negotiate the matter with the opposition?	Will the matter be negotiated by you with the opposition?
Why should I be suspected by you?	Why should you be able to suspect me?
The establishment is pleased with your performance.	Your performance is pleasurable to the establishment.
The Parliament members gave a hard time to the Prime Minister.	The Prime Minister was given a hard time by the Parliament.
The Prisoners in Cuba are being treated cruelly, by the so-called Human Rights custodians.	The so-called Human Rights custodians are treating the prisoners in Cuba cruelly.
The present Government is serving the people honestly! .	People are being served honestly by the government.
Who did this?	This was done by who?
The Palestinians are avenging the death of their leaders.	The death of their leaders is being avenged by the Palestinians.
International Humanitarian Law forbids actions leading to unnecessary death and suffering.	Actions leading to unnecessary death and suffering are forbidden by the International Humanitarian Law.
Why should I antagonize you?	Why should you be antagonized by me?
Let Manchoo be told about the jokes of Mulla Nasiruddin.	Tell the jokes of Mulla Nasiruddin to Manchoo.
Why have the roads not been constructed by the government in this part of the country?	Why has the government not constructed roads in this part of the country?
Do not kill your ability by roaming in the streets.	Do not let your abilities be killed by roaming in the streets
Your cousin is drawing a large sum of money from his account.	A large sum of money is being drawn by your cousin from his account.
The arrangements of holding the Art Exhibition could not be completed on time.	On time completion of the arrangements of holding the Art Exhibition
Build your house when cement is cheap.	Let your house be built when cement is cheap.

English Précis and Composition Past Papers

Misspelled	Corrections
Occurance	Occurrence
Esctacy	Ecstasy
Drunkeness	Drunkenness
Irrisistible	Irresistible
Supercede	Supersede
Embarrasing	Embarrassing
Dissapoint	Disappoint
Ocassional	Occasional
Indespensible	Indispensable
Preserverance	Perseverance

Pair the synonymous words in the following list: garrulous, selfish, near, talkative, obstruct, egoistic, wealthy, impede, affluent, filch, imminent, assess, tempting, ponder, augment, enticing, meditate, increase, estimate, steal.

garrulous	talkative
assess	estimate
tempting	enticing
ponder	meditate
augment	increase
egoistic	selfish
imminent	near
impede	obstruct
affluent	wealthy
filch	steal

CSS BOOKS & NOTES
 **JOIN US**
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/CssKnowledgeSharing/>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/CssScreeningTest/>