

The Precis Technique for Christians

- What is a precis (pré·cis) {/prā'sē, 'prāsē/} pronounced “pray - see”?
 - A precis is best defined as a summary or concise synopsis of a published work. We should refer to this as a summary and not a paraphrasing of written works. A Precis is roughly $\frac{1}{4}$ of the original length as a rule.
 - Précis explains the core of the text and has a structure. The précis format will help you to understand the structure of the text. It is an objective view or you can call it a brief summing up of ideas. It is not a critical analysis, which requires you to examine contents and ideas expressed in the article. It does not demand you to write your personal opinion. Only essential points should be covered. When you are writing a precis, you must make it short, precise and one must stick to the theme.
- Precis How-To
 - Read the chapter carefully and highlight or mark the main ideas.
 - Take a close look at evidence that the author has used.
 - You would need to restate a thesis given by the author in your own words. Do note that it should be precise and on-point.
 - You need to write only one or two sentences for each of the sections.
 - Now you need to re-read the chapter and check whether it is in sync with your summary.
 - You must review the write-up and confirm whether you have covered the main points or not. Always use a logical structure.
- Features of a Great Precis
 - Text should have clarity and precision.
 - A precis needs to be concise - to convey important rather than secondary information. Also, key points should be listed in their entirety, covering the material as comprehensively as possible.
 - It is a summary of the text and not a paraphrased version.

