

PRÉCIS

Central Superior Services Examination (CSS) 2022

Life's mystery and his helplessness makes

Passage

The fear of human beings when faced with the mysteries of life and their weakness in comparison with the vastness of nature created in them a need to communicate with the divine, with the superior powers which they believed regulated the universe and determined their own fates. Knowledge of the gods was always a sure guide for human behavior. In ancient Greece, the precise nature of these wishes was 'decoded' by the art of giving oracles, practiced by soothsayers who had the gift of understanding the signs or signals sent by the gods.

The soothsayers uttered their oracles by interpreting flashes of lightning, rolls of thunder, or the flights of certain birds of prey (omens); alternatively, they might observe the direction in which the fire burned when a sacrifice was made, examine the entrails of animals which had just been sacrificed, or base judgments on the sacrificial beast's willingness to approach the altar. The interpretation of dreams was popular too, and so was palmistry. The most notable soothsayers of ancient Greece were Tiresias, Calchas, Helenus, Amphiaraus, and Cassandra,

However, there were abundant instances in which the gods did not manifest themselves to the faithful in the forms of signs but spoke directly to an intermediate who for a short time was overcome by a 'divine mania' and transcended his own human essence. Here the prophet-or more usually the prophetess- entered a state of ecstasy in which they delivered the message from the gods to the suppliants.

These practices for foreseeing the future were the basis on which the ancient Greek oracles operated. Each oracle was located within a properly-organized sanctuary and was directly associated with one or other of the gods. Apollo was the archetypal soothsayer for the Greeks, the god who was responsible for conveying to mortals the decisions pronounced by Zeus. The most important of all the oracles, that at the Delphi, delivered the messages with the intervention of Apollo, while the oldest that of Dodona, functioned with the assistance of Zeus.

Greek gods and myths
Greek oracles

Title: Oracles of Ancient Greece

Life's mystery scares the man. In his fear, he looks for superior force to guide him. In ancient Greece, there were mystics who were known to understand signals of god. They had various methods to read and translate god's wishes. They would read palms and interpret dreams.

Tiresias, Calchas, Helenus, Amphiaraus and Cassandra were some of the famous soothsayers. There were also instances in which gods would talk through men. Prophetesses would enter into a state of divine trance and later deliver the message of god. These future telling oracles worked ~~by~~ through assistance of one another. They were placed in sacred places. Apollo and other old and famous oracles at Delphi and Dodona all worked together under help of Zeus.

(120 words)

Remarks by Examiner

In main précis

	Yes	No
1. Main idea is picked	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Main aspect(s) of an idea is/are covered	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Written in student's own language structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Cohesion/rhythm/organization needs improvement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Spelling(s) mistakes are found	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Need for improvement in grammar	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Is length per Requirement?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

In Title

	Yes	No
1. Title matches with précis/main idea	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Language of title is weak/incorrect	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Length of title as per standard	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Marks

Main Précis: _____/15

Title: _____/5

Remarks
