

Passage 1

Greek poets have held a profound and enduring influence on the world of literature, their works serving as timeless pillars of human creativity and expression. From the classical era to the Hellenistic period, Greek poets have crafted verses that resonate across millennia. Homer, often regarded as the father of Western literature, authored the epic poems "The Iliad" and "The Odyssey," offering an unparalleled glimpse into the heroic age of ancient Greece. These epics not only chronicle the heroic deeds of Achilles and Odysseus but also explore themes of honor, fate, and the human condition.

Moving forward in time, Hesiod, a contemporary of Homer, penned "Works and Days" and "Theogony," providing a glimpse into the origins of the Greek gods and the principles of virtuous living. Pindar, celebrated for his odes, crafted intricate verses that celebrated the victors of athletic competitions and immortalized their achievements. His poetry was not only a celebration of physical prowess but also a reflection of the Greek reverence for excellence and virtue.

The lyrical tradition of Greek poetry blossomed with the likes of Sappho and Alcaeus, whose poems explored themes of love, desire, and the human heart. Sappho, in particular, stands out for her passionate expressions of love and longing, earning her the title of the "Tenth Muse." Meanwhile, the playwrights Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides brought poetry to the stage, transforming the Greek theater into a platform for exploring complex moral and philosophical questions through plays like "Oedipus Rex" and "Medea."

The Hellenistic period saw the emergence of poets like Theocritus, Callimachus, and Apollonius of Rhodes, who expanded the horizons of Greek poetry. Theocritus pioneered the pastoral genre, while Callimachus experimented with shorter, more refined forms of poetry, emphasizing craftsmanship and precision. Apollonius composed the epic poem "Argonautica," which chronicled the adventures of Jason and the Argonauts in their quest for the Golden Fleece.

In sum, Greek poets have left an indelible mark on the literary and intellectual traditions of the world. Their works, ranging from epic narratives to intimate lyrics, continue to captivate readers and offer profound insights into the human experience, making them an essential part of our cultural heritage.

Date: 10th October, 2023. Passage 01M T W T F S S

The Imperishable Hellenic Imprint on Literature

The impact of Greek poets on literature is everlasting. Their works, being eternal masterpieces of human art, have survived since antiquity. The epic poems of Homer provided an account of ancient Greece by documenting the extraordinary actions of Greek heroes. Homer's coeval Hesiod wrote about Greek gods and morality. Pindar's odes acknowledged victorious Greek athletes. His poetry also presented the respect Greeks had for intelligence. The Greek lyrical poetry flourished due to love poems of Sappho and Alcaeus. Moreover, the Greek dramatists wrote poetic plays on themes addressing complexities of life. The addition of pastoral genre by Theocritus, and short poems by Callimachus, expanded Greek poetry in Hellenistic period. In a nutshell, Greek poets imparted a perennial effect on world literature. (word count of original passage: 356 words, word count of precis = 122 words)

Passage 2

The quest for knowledge has been an innate and driving force in the human experience since time immemorial. From the dawn of consciousness, humans have sought to unravel the mysteries of the universe, to understand the intricacies of the world around them, and to explore the depths of their own existence. This thirst for knowledge has led to the accumulation of vast bodies of information, the development of countless fields of study, and the constant expansion of our collective understanding.

At its core, the pursuit of knowledge is a reflection of humanity's curiosity and intellect. It is an acknowledgment of our innate desire to make sense of the world, to connect the dots between seemingly disparate phenomena, and to seek meaning in our existence. This quest has driven us to explore the far reaches of the cosmos, to delve into the microscopic realms of quantum physics, and to decipher the complexities of the human brain. It has given rise to disciplines as diverse as philosophy, science, art, and literature, each offering unique perspectives on the nature of reality and the human condition.

The quest for knowledge has also been a source of progress and innovation. Throughout history, humans have harnessed their intellectual prowess to develop new technologies, discover groundbreaking scientific principles, and create works of art and literature that challenge the boundaries of human creativity. From the invention of the wheel to the development of the internet, the pursuit of knowledge has driven humanity to push the limits of what is possible and to constantly strive for improvement.

Yet, the quest for knowledge is not without its challenges and ethical considerations. The acquisition of knowledge has the power to shape the course of history, for better or worse. It can lead to both enlightenment and destruction, depending on how it is wielded. It is essential that the pursuit of knowledge be guided by principles of ethics, responsibility, and empathy, ensuring that the fruits of our intellectual endeavors are used for the betterment of humanity rather than its harm.

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Passage # 02

The Intrinsic Epistemic Curiosity of Mankind

Mankind has an intrinsic desire for knowledge since antiquity. Humans have searched answers to questions regarding cosmos, human existence and complexities of world. Consequently, numerous academic fields have developed along with enormous bulk of information. Seeking knowledge is a mirror to inquisitive human nature. It has created various disciplines which provide remarkable outlook to human life. Historically, the utilization of human intelligence for technological development, scientific inventiveness, and artistic creativeness is an outcome of man's search for knowledge. However, search for knowledge couples with trials too. The curiosity for knowledge is strong enough to construct or destruct mankind, relying on the way it is used. So, it should be necessarily undertaken as per fundamentals of morality so that it benefits humanity.

Word Count:

Original Passage = 338

Precis = 124

SHAHEEN

Q.2: Make a précis of the following passage and suggest a suitable title.

There were many obstacles to the development of commerce in the Middle Ages. Dangers by land and sea had to be considered by the merchant who wished to send his goods to some distant part; but as the towns grew and multiplied, the resolution and ingenuity of man rendered it possible for commerce to increase steadily, till by the dawn of the modern period every country in Western Europe had felt its beneficent influence. When we think of the poorness of communication, the vast forests, the inferior roads, the unbridged rivers, and the innumerable foes lining the trade routes, it would seem, at first sight, almost an impossibility for merchants in the north of Europe to have intercourse with those of the south. Then, again, the narrow spirit of the Middle Ages; the survival of feudalism, offered a difficulty which was almost as prohibitive to the transportation of merchandise as the robbers and pirates, noble and

ignoble, who lay in wait for the trembling merchant. There was an elaborate system of dues and tolls which made most goods when they arrived safely at their destination a luxury beyond the means of the average man; and furthermore, it was the practice for governments in those days to prohibit and prevent passage through their countries. Yet in spite of all difficulties, the group of towns which were still developing in Northern and Southern Europe, and the manufacturing centres of the East and West, steadily increase their wealth and prosperity. / 24

Title:
Medieval Era Hurdles in Development
of Commerce

Precis:
In Medieval Era, the development of commerce faced numerous hurdles. The merchant who intended to transport his products to remote areas had to ponder on security threats. Tradesmen in North Europe considered trading with South Europe an impossible thing because of undeveloped infrastructure and unsafe trade routes. But still, due to man's determination and inventiveness, trade expanded unwaveringly. High trade tariffs paid during transportation of goods made them very expensive for common people.

Despite all hurdles, European towns grew their economies.

Word Count:

Original Passage = 247

Precis Passage = 81