

**Write a précis of the following and suggest a suitable title:  
(20)**

The fear of human beings when faced with the mysteries of life and their weakness by 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 wishes 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 lightening, 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 he or she 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.

Title:

## Greek Oracles: The Voice of Gods

The overwhelming nature of the universe has always compelled man to communicate with god as a source of knowledge and guidance. In ancient Greece, the gods spoke to man through oracles delivered by soothsayers. The oracles operated on the interpretation of omens, dreams, and other signs, including palmistry. At times, the gods spoke directly through a middle-man as their mouthpiece. This was described as an out-of-body experience or "divine mania". Every oracle had their own sanctuary and an associated god. The oracles of Delphi were associated with Apollo while that of Dodona with Zeus.

Original W.C = Approx. 342

Precis W.C = Approx. 75

Q. Correct the following:

1). I must walk two miles to school every morning when I was a child.

I had to walk two miles to school every morning when I was a child.

2). After the storm, we had got to pick up some fallen branches.

After the storm, we had to pick up some fallen branches.

3). Guitar is most popular instrument among teenage boys, but not girls.

Guitar is the most popular instrument among teenage boys, but not among girls.

4) You are not well and I wish you feel better soon.

You are unwell and I wish you feel better soon.

5) The grass not looking green now because it is not raining since last month.

The grass is not looking green now because it has not rained since last month.

6) The cold air made me shiver a little when I was waiting for him.

The cold air made me shiver a little while I was waiting for him.

7) I offered my seat to an older woman who just smiled me.

I offered my seat to an elder woman who just smiled at me.

8. She packed her bags, carried downstairs and put the back seat of her car.

She packed her bags, carried them downstairs and put them in the backseat of her car.