

**PART-II**

**Q. 2. 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.

Q. NO # 02

(Majid)  
2022 past paper

Title — The ancient Greek oracles and gods

The horrible mysteries and nature's extensiveness learned mankind to the beholder of superior power; the divine. To guide people in ancient Greece, the soothsayers manifested divine wishes through oracles. The popular soothsayers as Tiresias, Calchas, Helenus, Amphiarcous and Cassandra got guidance from the lightning, thunder, and birds' flights for oracles, while winds' direction, animals' entrails and its willingness for slaughter might guide them too. Among them, dream's interpretation and palmistry was common. Moreover, manytimes, instead of divine indications gods conveyed messages through prophets or prophetess. These oracles worked on the aforementioned practices with specific sanctuary and gods. Apollo being prime soothsayer conveyed Zeus's decisions, while oracles at the Delphi and of Dodona worked with the assistance of Apollo and Zeus.

Total words — 326

Required words — 109

Precis- words — 119